

2015 Dream Award Recipients

2015 Organization Dream Award - Social Work Organization



The Student Social Work Organization (SSWO) is being recognized because the organization strives to demonstrate diversity, equality, and leadership, through its involvement on campus and in the local community.

SSWO have created volunteer events for both the student of University of Washington Tacoma and for the community and its populations. SSWO has created a Zumbathon which gathered donations for the local Toys for Tots. The SSWO participated and volunteer at the Boy's and Girl's club to set up and serve Thanksgiving Day dinner and helped the staff with the children. The SSWO have partnered and communicated with the Criminal Justice League (CJL) for both organizations to gather non-perishable food for the Tacoma Rescue Mission. The SSWO helped raised over 400 items for the organization. Not only has CJL been an organization SSWO has teamed up with, but the University of Washington Tacoma's Diversity Resource Center as well.

SSWO demonstrated community outreach and active participation in both the community and on campus. SSWO actively participates in Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) events and hopes to partner with more organizations.

From the events and volunteering activities, SSWO represents diversity, equality, and leadership. SSWO strives to offer assistance to community populations, and empower individuals, groups, and communities towards social change by listening, advocating for social justice and serving the community with competence and integrity.

SSWO build bridges with the local community to create enriching relationships that promote and advocate for social justice and positive change. The goals of SSWO are to provide opportunities for student participation, leadership, and facilitate professional and academic growth; raise student's awareness through information sharing, educational events, and building partnerships with other disciplines; advocate for social justice to future the rights of social work students and others and the population we

serve; and promote the visibility of UWT's campus and students through community outreach and service efforts.

2015 Student Dream Award - Shema Hanebutte



A nominator for this award wrote, "Shema Hanebutte, a UWT doctoral student, is an educator, community leader, and staunch advocate for social justice. She repeatedly demonstrates her commitment to diversity through educational equity, student support, campus leadership, and critical community engagement. Through her leadership at Tacoma Community College, Shema creates inclusive support structures that foster student engagement for a range of Tacoma residents who have often felt excluded from education. Yet Shema also leads community initiatives to enhance life opportunities for many Tacoma residents with limited resources; one recent example comes from her advocacy around housing for homeless students."

Shema Hanebutte is the Dean of Counseling, Advising, Access and Career Services at Tacoma Community College (TCC). Her passion for community, state and federal level partnerships has maximized her innovative ways to expand capacity in educational programs, increase student access, while improving equity and diversity. Shema strives to develop holistic approaches that level the playing field through education. She is currently the project administrator for the College Housing Assistance Project; a multi-year pilot project between TCC and Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) that provides housing vouchers and case management for homeless/almost homeless students. Through this partnership, housing vouchers combined with comprehensive services, are provided to increase student access, retention and completion.

She is also working on another project that focuses on building resiliency with homeless families while providing educational and supportive services that assist in family stabilization and student retention. Her interest in social justice and her drive to identify and call out the underlying constructs that support discrimination and inequity within our society emerges in her work, her speaking at local and national conferences, and is a central part of her personal life.

Prior to her work in higher education, she collaborated and built workforce development initiatives that focused on increasing capacity in health care programs within higher educational institutes across Pierce County. She has a BS in Psychology with a focus on Community Interventions from the University of Illinois at Chicago and it was while she was working on her undergraduate degree that she developed a love for community based interventions that focused on equity and diversity. Her undergraduate research focused on increasing parental involvement in impoverished African American communities in Chicago.

Shema holds a MS in Counseling from California State, East Bay and is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Educational Leadership at the University of Washington, Tacoma; with a research topic of Hiring, Retention and Leadership Development of Minorities in the Community and Technical College System. Having served in the United States Air Force, provided clinical counseling in addition to community based interventions, she has found her calling within the higher education system. We congratulate Shema Hanebutte as the recipient of the 2015 Student Dream Award. The Legacy Dream Awards recognize persons or organizations outside of UW Tacoma who have made significant contributions to the UW Tacoma community in the areas of diversity, social justice or civil rights. This award encompasses contributions spanning five or more years.

2015 Legacy Dream Award - Lyle Quasim



Mr. Quasim serves on various non-profit boards, serves as a member of the Tacoma Black Collective, presented at TedxTacoma and so much more! His commitment to social justice and equity are demonstrated in his legacy.

Lyle Quasim, born Lyle Rogers in Chicago in 1943, has held leadership positions in public health and administration in Tacoma, Pierce County, and the state of Washington. In 1995 he became the first African American to head Washington's Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). His father, Miller, was a self-taught tailor. His mother, Ophelia was an accountant with the Mine, Mill and Smelters Workers Union. An active member of the Socialist party, Quasim's mother was committed to community welfare and advancement.

After briefly attending the University of Illinois, Quasim became a civil rights activist in 1964. His political activism was influenced by the Socialist values of his mother. He was also influenced by the Nation of Islam, although not a member. In 1970, he changed his name to acknowledge their shared values.

Quasim ignored a 1965 draft notice but in 1966 joined the Air Force, trained as a medic, and was sent to Vietnam, where his activism continued, and in 1969 he left the military. Having begun and ended his service at McChord Air Force Base, Quasim remained in Tacoma. He received a degree in sociology from the University of Puget Sound (UPS) in 1970, a master's degree in sociology from Pacific Lutheran University in 1973, and in 2005, an honorary doctorate from UPS.

Quasim joined Tacoma's Black Panther Party, which ran a Liberation School and other community services. In 1969, he began professional employment in the mental health field, working night shifts so that he could commit daytime to the Liberation School. In 1969, Tacoma experienced a crisis in race relations, highlighted by the Mother's Day disturbance on May 11. The black leaders who helped quell the violence and win concessions from the city formed a group that in 1970 became the Black Collective, a leadership organization which addressed issues facing the Tacoma black community. Quasim has co-chaired this voluntary organization for the past 30 years.

Quasim's career at DSHS began in 1973, where he assumed increasing responsibility, eventually becoming Director of State Mental Health Services. When gang violence rose in Tacoma, he returned to the city in 1988 to serve as the first director of the Safe Streets Campaign, whose model of community engagement was recognized by Harvard University's Kennedy School of Public Affairs. In 1995 he returned to the agency to become its first African American Secretary (director) in 1995, a position he held until 2000. From 2001 through 2008 he was Chief of Staff for Pierce County Executive, John Ladenburg.