



**CHARITABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS**

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

Degrees of Change

Address:

1102 Commerce St, Suite 400
Tacoma, WA 98402

Mailing Address:

PO Box 1573
Tacoma, WA 98401

Contact:

(253) 444-0004
<https://www.degreesofchange.org>

Organization's General Goals:

Degrees of Change prepares diverse, homegrown leaders to succeed in college and use their degrees to build more vibrant and equitable communities.

Date of Award:

2018 Q3

Level:

\$500 to \$2,500

Specific Use for This Award:

For more information, please read the attached report from Degrees of Change.

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.

August 30, 2019

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund
Attn: Marilyn Sheldon
8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271



Dear Marilyn and the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund,

Thank you, again, for your generous [REDACTED] on December 6, 2018 to support our Act Six and Ready to Rise programs. We'd like to offer you this written report on the results of our local Act Six and Ready to Rise programs during the 2018-19 academic year, **Code: Q3 2018 14.2**.

In the 2018-19 academic year Act Six (<https://www.actsix.org>) recruited, selected and trained 27 new scholars, while supporting 74 scholars on their college campus. 82% of current Act Six scholars are first generation to college and or impacted by poverty. Our six-year college graduation rate for this program continues to be nearly 80%, double the national average for students impacted by poverty. Each year we rigorously measure the results of the Act Six program both through outcome measures and survey results from students. In 2018-2019 100% of Act Six scholars persisted in college, which measures the number of students who maintained enrollment from their first year of college to their second year of college. In addition, our fifth college partner, St. Martins University recruited its first cohort of seven students, increasing the number of students we are able to serve by 25%.

In the 2018-19 academic year Ready to Rise (<https://www.readytorise.org/>) recruited, selected and trained 60 new scholars, while supporting 56 scholars already on campus in their second and third years. In only its third year of serving students, Ready to Rise does not yet have significant outcome data, but we are working with Claremont Evaluation Center who is completing a third-party evaluation of this new program. Moreover, because Ready to Rise is modeled after our historically, long-running Act Six program, we expect to see similar results and impact on scholars and our communities. We are excited to share that our scholars have exhibited an 82% first year to second fall persistence rate at our Ready to Rise partner colleges.

With your support, we were able to serve **a total of 217** Tacoma-Seattle students this year. If you would like to learn more about our program accomplishments this year, please see the attached in-depth update. Thank you for the generosity of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund.

With Gratitude

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Herron", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tim Herron
Chief Executive Officer

TO COLLEGE AND BACK. TOGETHER.

PO Box 1573, Tacoma, WA 98401 • info@degreesofchange.org • 253.444.0004 • www.degreesofchange.org

Degrees of Change Program Updates, 2019-08-30

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Act Six Tacoma-Seattle – In the 2018-2019 academic year Act Six recruited, selected and trained 27 new scholars, while supporting over 74 scholars on their college campus. 93% of current Act Six scholars are first generation to college and or impacted by poverty. Our six-year college graduation rate for this program continues to be nearly 80%, double the national average for students impacted by poverty.

In addition, this past year we were able to add Saint Martin's University as our fifth college partner serving Puget Sound area Act Six scholars. The first cadre of Saint Martin's Act Six Scholars were selected in winter 2018, trained this spring and summer, and will begin their freshman year this fall.

Act Six continues to have a profound impact on our local community. Two Act Six alumni were recently selected to lead successful Tacoma nonprofits, Jonathan Jackson at Palmer Scholars and Denice Randle at Peace Community Center. We also added three Act Six alumni to our staff at Degrees of Change this year, alongside the addition of three alumni to our board of directors, one of whom serves as our new board chair.

Act Six has been supporting college completion and persistence for diverse Tacoma students since it was founded in 2002. Act Six founder and Degrees of Change CEO, Tim Herron, was honored this year with an honorary doctorate degree from Whitworth University, our initial college partner with Act Six. This degree was given for the incredible impact of Act Six scholars and the program as a whole on their campus and beyond.

Ready to Rise – In the 2018-2019 academic year Ready to Rise recruited, selected and trained 60 new scholars, while supporting 56 scholars already on campus, serving a total of 116 Ready to Rise scholars. Our coaching program is also growing as our second- and third-year Ready to Rise scholars get excited to give back to the program by sharing their time and wisdom to incoming Ready to Rise scholars.

Working with the college partners, we are finding ways to connect scholars to much-needed resources (tutoring center, financial aid, counseling services, etc.) on campus in a way that helps scholars easily access those resources without shame or worry. Having the Career Center staff at each institution come to speak with scholars during their first-year training was a well-received activity and got a several first-year students to visit the Career Center at their school.

PROGRAM ADAPTATIONS LEARNINGS

Act Six – In 2018-2019, we continued to work on providing additional on-campus support to our Act Six Scholars. As our scholars continue to thrive on their college campuses, our college partners have asked us to increase our presence on campus to further support our scholars' success. Though Act Six continues to produce top notch results, we hope to increase our local six-year graduation, which currently sit at 79%, to over 80%. Because Act Six has a proven history of being run efficiently and effectively for nearly twenty years, we know that only minor changes in focus are required to achieve this goal.

Ready to Rise – In the third year of Ready to Rise, we are still adapting to better meet the needs of our students. As we scale Ready to Rise, recruitment and training of new scholars continues to be a challenge. We did not meet our goals for recruitment this year, but are currently continuing to recruit additional scholars, and are working on more efficient and better yielding strategies for recruitment for the coming year. We are hopeful that these efforts will be successful as they are being guided by our new Ready to Rise National Director who can offer significant support in the development and implementation of overall program strategy.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

Act Six & Ready to Rise – These programs rely on strong relationships with local high schools and community-based organizations to recruit students into these two programs. Last year we expanded those partnerships through What's Next, a one-day event for every TPS high school senior that planned to attend TCC or UWT, to ensure students have the support they need and know the steps to take to successfully begin classes in the fall as freshman. This year we've continued our partnership with Graduate Tacoma, Tacoma Public Schools, Tacoma Community College and UW Tacoma by hosting the second annual What's Next event and expanded the number of colleges to include Bates Tech, PLU, TCC, UPS, and UWT.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

Degrees of Change would like to share that we have had some significant staff transitions with our Ready to Rise program. Our National Program Director for Ready to Rise has transitioned to become our new Tacoma Completes Director. We have hired a new Ready to Rise National Director, DJ Crisostomo. DJ has worked for two-decades in Tacoma supporting students on the journey to and through college, as part of MDC's College Bound and most recently as a critical part of the UW Tacoma students transitions team. DJ brings a unique blend of front-line experience, grassroots community perspective and powerful relationships that will guide Ready to Rise at this critical development stage.

In addition, our Ready to Rise Tacoma Site Director has moved on from Degrees of Change as well and we will be hiring for that open position later this summer. While staffing changes are never easy, we are confident in our ability to continue to serve students well, and bring new talents, experiences and perspectives to our Ready to Rise team that will help us to better serve students and grow the program.

