



# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**  
**Seattle Urban Academy**

**Address:**  
10056 Renton Ave S  
Seattle, WA 98178

**Contact:**  
(206) 723-0333  
<https://sua.org>

**Organization's General Goals:**  
Seattle Urban Academy is a positive, alternative, educational community where high school students overcome risks and develop academic, social, and spiritual maturity to graduate to higher education and sustained employment.

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<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2019 Q3	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Seattle Urban Academy.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271  
**TulalipCares.org**

CRISTA Ministries

Seattle Urban  
Academy  
[www.SUA.org](http://www.SUA.org)  
2019-20 Report

Prepared for Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund  
Q3 2019 14.2  
6-30-2020



## 2019-20 Year in Review

**Introduction:** The 2019-20 school year at Seattle Urban Academy was one of excitement, transition, and perseverance through struggle. The opening days of September were filled with exuberance as our students, teachers, and volunteers together established “home” at our new south Seattle campus. Each student received intensive support in small class sizes and individualized learning plans, including academic support as well as preparation for future education and career. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in mid-March, we transitioned to remote learning for instruction and mentorship, while finding new ways to provide food and housing stability, mental health counseling, and access to technology. Although this situation put severe strain on our students and their families, we are so proud of their perseverance. Even with the impact of COVID, average attendance for the year was 85%. All three of our seniors graduated, along with one junior who put in extra effort to complete all graduation requirements in less than a year.

This brief report outlines a few of the highlights of the school year that ended June 17, 2020.

**Academic Performance:** During the 2019-20 school year, Seattle Urban Academy served a total of 32 students in grades 9 through 12. Despite a smaller student body, we celebrated four graduates this year.

At Seattle Urban Academy, we track our overall effectiveness in the following areas:

Criterion	Goal Percentage	Actual Percentage
Student average attendance	83%	85%
Credits earned (percent of total possible)	75%	87%
Summer student employment	35%	33%
Seniors graduating	80%	100+%
Graduates who transition directly to higher education and/or employment (within one year of graduation)	75%	92%

Seattle Urban Academy is dedicated to students who have previously failed, dropped out or been expelled from other schools and have multiple risk factors that prime them for academic failure. About half of SUA students are the first in their families’ history to graduate from high school. SUA increases the graduation rate of disadvantaged youth through intensive, student-centered academic development. Young men and women overcome the negative impact of isolation, abandonment and abuse and develop worth and identity. SUA students build a solid academic foundation and graduate with vision and purpose. They continue on to higher

education and employment, actively contributing to the health of our community.

**Emotional Support:** Individualized Development Plans are prepared to meet social/emotional goals and guide students to develop health and wholeness. Our Student Development Coordinator provides and coordinates interventions and support services. SUA has a partnership with Coleman Family Counseling Services and Southwest Youth and Family Services to provide all students with group therapy and make individual sessions available. Students work through issues critical to urban high school youth, resulting in improved mental health. Social development in turn helps students focus on academics and attend class regularly.

SUA continued to build community through Restorative Circles this last year. From September through early March, ie. before the pandemic, we did regular harm, celebration or affirmation circles facilitated by a teacher or student. The entire SUA community now participates in quarterly Restorative Justice Trainings. Restorative justice practices are part of the SUA policy and procedures framework; they are the first step in our response to conflict or harm, replacing traditional disciplinary actions. This process has cut back on the number of student suspensions and increased valuable time in school for students to make personal and academic gains.

**College and Career Transitions:** SUA prepares our students for life after high school, introducing them to career options and educational pathways to help them achieve their vocational goals and dreams. Since many SUA students are the first in their family to graduate from high school, our college and career transition services open their eyes to possibilities they may never have considered before. As they envision their successful futures, we provide the skills, knowledge, and supportive mentorship to help them move forward. For example:

- At SUA Career Day, students interacted with panels of professionals in areas including business/finance, health care, law and law enforcement, technology, arts, and more.
- Students explored careers in semester-long Post-Secondary Planning and subject area courses, even leading to a student completing an 8-week, full-time paid lab internship with Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research.
- Students toured multiple higher education campuses to explore possibilities for technical college, community college, and 4-year universities. All four of our 2020 graduates are registered for college, one with a 4-year renewable full tuition scholarship from Central Washington University.

**Organizational Changes for SUA:** The 2019-2020 school year will be SUA's last year as part of CRISTA Ministries. Due to significant financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CRISTA board made the difficult decision to release Seattle Urban Academy and seek another entity to take over the operations of our school. CRISTA is currently working through a due diligence process with a potential new organization to carry the vision of SUA forward into the future.

**Thank you to Tulalip Tribes for partnering with Seattle Urban Academy to make a difference in the lives of young people.**

## Spotlight on two 2020 Graduates

If you met him three years ago, you would not have predicted Tia'i would go to college — let alone that he would receive two scholarships!

By his own words, he was a disinterested student who hated school. The teachers at his old school ignored his sleeping in class and failing tests ...

“They did nothing, as if I didn't exist,” Tia'i recalls. “They never urged me to do better, and their decision to ignore my behavior only communicated to me that education means nothing.”

He finished his freshman year with a miserable .49 GPA.

Graduating high school — and attending college — both seemed like distant dreams at this point.



But then someone like you helped make a way for him to come to Seattle Urban Academy — and everything began to change!

**Tia'i made honor roll every semester here and is graduating with a full tuition scholarship to Central Washington University, where he'll play on the rugby team — and he also received his community's Rotary scholarship!**

Tesiah, another 2020 graduate, has a different story ... and is just as full of hope!

“Seattle Urban Academy was my school!” he says, happily recalling his first days with us. “My friends and I were welcomed and allowed to bring the energy, and bring the life, into the building!”

He immediately knew that he was someone special here, not just another face in the crowd as he might be at a different school in his neighborhood.

“I made many great friends that made this a fun place to keep coming back to every day,” he says, “Freshman year changed my life, and I met some of my closest friends that year.”



**Tesiah is already working at a great nonprofit, Emergency Feeding Program, helping make sure people in need aren't going hungry.**

We're excited to see where the future takes him.