2020 Curtis High School Graduation

AN EXTRAORDINARY CLASS FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR

UNIVERSITY PLACE AND CURTIS HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITIES RALLY AROUND SENIORS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

• 2020 Graduation Ceremony Highlights
• 2020 Curtis High School Graduates
• CHS Scholarship & Award Recipients
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• Teacher of the Year
Over the past four years I have been given the greatest opportunities from my teachers to truly learn, grow and develop into the young man I am today. I have so many memories from attending Curtis, including the tailgates, attending games, setting up Homecoming, performing my poem in front of the entire school, and becoming Senior Class President. I would not have those memories if it were not for my fellow peers and the staff.

Graduating from high school any time is a great accomplishment. I have tremendous respect for each and every one of you. You will be better prepared for the ups and downs and curves of life than most people because you have come through this time and succeeded. You’ve proven you can handle adversity and still achieve your goals. That is a life skill that will serve you well in the future.

This time is, frankly, unlike times past Curtis graduates have faced in the past. Among the skills you will need to improve society are intelligence, confidence, empathy and resilience. Continue to foster resilience in yourself and to encourage it in others. It is a skill you can nurture and improve in yourself and it will serve you well all your life.

Transition from one stage of life to another can lead to anxiety and frustration, but can also lead to adventure, success and elation. You are prepared to begin the adventure. You are ready for the next step. Seniors, you got this!
Brilliance in Action

A Message from Tom Adams,
Curtis High School Principal

Seniors, I want to thank you and tell you how proud I am of you. You represented Curtis Senior High School well, especially during the last several months.

CHS students are absolutely brilliant. Viks, you are diverse, polite, smart, inquisitive, funny and engaging. Thank you for making the CHS team’s days the best they could be. We are so proud of you all.

As you move forward, I encourage you to have a bias towards action. Life’s regrets come from inaction; you will never regret taking a chance and doing something.

Class of 2020, this spring we witnessed the University Place and Curtis High School communities rally around you. We saw and felt the support of our teachers, alumni, school district, PTA and community partners, our neighbors and friends. Now more than ever you know you are part of a special legacy no other school or community can match. You are Curtis Vikings, and those who come after you will stand on your shoulders. Go forth and be a positive light for others.
2020 Curtis Graduates

Hend Flaih Abbas
Sumaiyah Abdur-Rashid Williams
Nicolas James Adonis
Adam Nabil Ahmed
Malek Kareem Ahmed
Aysha Nasser Al-Dobashi
Diego Alarcon Baas
Sephora Siviri Alimasi
Omar Saleh Alsinaal (*)
Harold Robyn Amable
William Lee Andersen
Yuri Ana Arakaki (*)
Gisel Yalen Arciniega Valdes
Adrian Arias
Elise Morgan Arkills (**)
Lauren Marie Arkills (**)
Marylinn Jody Auelua
Ayse Aylin Avcular (**)
Emilie Nicole Ayton (**)
Marylinn Jody Auelua

Curtis Graduates

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Ayse Aylin Avcular (**)
Emilie Nicole Ayton (**)
Marylinn Jody Auelua

Kaleo Wailani Baker
Janelle Cassandra Basconcillo (**)
Courtney Lauren Baugham
Ethan Michael Baydo
Garrett Richard Beard
Conley Ross Beckwith
Faith Julianna Bellot (*) (**)
Payton McKenna Bergen (**)
Isabella Frances Bernas (*) (**)
Megan Serina Berry
Aryana Marie Bertsch (**)
Filip Beschieru
Chloe Ann Best (**)
Jacob Christopher Bethard
Kalina Alicia Blanding
Javontae’ Narquis Bolden
Jade Savannah Bonenfant
Araquín Addae Boome
Christian Leigh Boustedt
Christopher Alle Boustedt, Jr.
Colston Iziaiah Bravo
Jason Alexander Brock
Riley Scout Brooks (**)
Kloei Renee Brown
Ellia Jane Brubaker (**)
Emily Rose Bryant
Andren James Beehler (*)
Helena Therese Burk (**)
Jerome Sailas Buoyo
Congratulations!

Jalina Farias Lopez
Kevin Ottonell Lopez
Winter Isabella-Rose Lovelace (*)
Emma Christine Lowery
Kristina Tanya Lukinov (**) 
Nicklas Alan Lundgren
David Minh Ly
Alexandra Maxine Magbaton (**) 
Braedon Charles Magoon (**) 
Tyler Aaron Manning (**) 
Evon Wayne Mantle 
Kellan Ronald Marshall 
Felia Batistis Martens (*) (**)
Casey Aaron Martinez (*)
Omar Martinez 
Catherine Grace Matz (*) (**)
Kiara La’savonce Maxwell 
Reegan Ashleigh May 
Isabelle Grace Mayne 
Joseph Pierce McClain
Sarah Elizabeth McEntee
Clark Thomas McGoogan (**)
Brady Allen McClain 
Abraham Isaac Medal 
Joseph Hopper Melin (**)
Zaafir Altaf Merchant (**)
Cyrus Darius Milani
Aalyna Selecia Milano (*) (**)
Damani Rashad Miles (*)
Amelia Mikkel Miller
Josiah Alexander Miller
Rachel Dawn Min (*) (**)
Mugabi Mirimo
Cameron Austin Mitchels
Seyyedehegzal Mohammadi
Erik Connor Mohr
Alexander Daniel Molina-Armas
Alan Robert Morin
Cole Martin Morin
Sophia Annalise Moushegian (*)
Curtrinnia Shameelah Muhammad
Bushra Hashem Muqabel (**)
Patrick Kellen Murdach
Elias Kinyanjui Mwago (**)
Kailie L Navales
Christian James Negrete
Hannah Rose Ness
Brian Nguyen (**) 
Cynthia Thi Nguyen 
Nhat-Hy Nguyen 
Sydney V Nguyen 
Iyvonne Ngoc-Nhang Nguyen (**) 
Jasmine Victoria Nighswonger (*)
Jonathan Matthew Nix
Thomas Ansel O’Brien
Jennifer Sluke Oh (**) 
McKenna Sway Olson (**) 
Alexander George Ostlund
Therese Marie Pacio (**) 
Bryce William Parker 
Brandon Thomas Patterson 
Kiefer Jonathan Paulson (**) 
Mikayla Jean Pennington (*)
Bryan Duong Phan 
Aynah Jaiden Pringle 
Madelynn Jeanae Quitt 
Enrique Mikelen Ramirez-Bravo
Elijah L Ramos 
Bryan Marshall Redhair 
Danny Lee Reed III
Illyana Lani Reyes 
Tanner Don Richardson 
Espereanza Louise Riverman
Monique Jeanette Rockefeller 
Luis Jaylin Rodriguez 
Tiyonna Renee Rogers 
Savion Reese Rollins 
Ariel Elizabeth Romain
Aaron James Rosario
Brenden Leslie Rowland 
Jude Henry Robinson Rowley (**) 
Natalie Lane Roy (**) 
Kyle Joshua Russell
Camie Jay Ryan 
Rona Mari Sabado
Evon Seth Salcedo 
Patrick Everett Salsberry 
Courtney Lee Sawin (**) 
Evon Andrew Schmidtke
Mateo Nicholas Schuler (*) 
Samantha Diane Schultz (**) 
Lauren Marie Scoles (**) 
Sarah Madison Scott (*) (**) 
Bret Michael Sheflgren 
Audrey Marie Shry 
Anika Marie Shuckhart 
Zoe Ann Shuckhart 
Asoloomauga Pati Siagatonu
Regan Wallace Siebert 
Ethan Zachary Simental
Jingzhou Situ 
Ricky Situ 
Kayla Nicole Skipworth 
Jason Robert Smith 
Keysha Marie Smith 
Maria Victoria Smith (*) 
Rachel Elizabeth Smith 
Da Sol Song 
Aidan Alan Sorrell
William Lee Sortais 
Alyssa Lake Spence (*)
Miles Issie Spivey 
Andreya Vanya Sprout (*)
Darion Mathew Stahl 
Mac Wyler Stauffacher 
Kaden Nicholas Steen
Chase Dylan Stephens
Nicholas Allan Stewart 
Eva Graham Stilnovich 
Abigail Loraine Stojakovich
Oria Stray-Pedersen 
David Nathan Strupinski 
Brian Sung 
Makenna Sunseri 
Makenna Suinseri 
Nhu Phuong Tang
Valrina Merenaita Tausen (*) 
Cheynna K. Thaxton 
Tahjanae Grace Therwood 
Haileymay Lois Thompson 
Kassidy Elizabeth Thomsen 
Melania Tignyandyu (*)
Benjamin Robert Tilton (*)
Terrance Neil Trent 
Noah Richard Turley 
Joseph Rick Vaetoe
Aaron Elias Van Valkenburg

(*) Running start students having earned their Associate’s Degree in addition to their high school diploma
(**) Students qualify by earning a seven semester cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or above

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Scholarship/Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hend Flah Abbas</td>
<td>The Palmer Scholars Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gisel Yaleine Arciniega Valdes</td>
<td>Pierce College Athletic Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elise Morgan Arkills</td>
<td>Seattle Pacific University In-state Matching Scholar Award, Seattle Pacific University Ministry Scholarship, Seattle Pacific University Early Success Award, Seattle Pacific University Advantage Award, Seattle Pacific University Trustees' Scholar Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Marie Arkills</td>
<td>Whitworth University Academic Scholarship, Whitworth University Visit Scholarship, Whitworth University Campus Housing Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Marie Baird</td>
<td>Western Washington University Scholarship, University Place Classified Association Scholarship, Curtis PTSA Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaleo Wailani Baker</td>
<td>Outstanding Yearbook Editorial Support Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janelle Cassandra Illoreta</td>
<td>Seattle University Academic Achievement Scholarship, Kiwanis Club Scholarship, Outstanding Social Studies Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith Julianna Bellot</td>
<td>Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payton McKenna Bergren</td>
<td>George Fox University Merit Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isabella Frances Bernas</td>
<td>Pacific Lutheran Academic Scholarship, Pacific Lutheran Artistic Scholarship, BECU Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Serina Berry</td>
<td>Artistic Excellence Award, Outstanding Japanese Language Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Javontae’ Narquis Bolden</td>
<td>College Bound Scholarship Washington, MAC Scholars Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colston Iziah Bravo</td>
<td>Outstanding Band Participant Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Alexander Brock</td>
<td>Outstanding Yearbook Editor Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ella Jane Brubaker</td>
<td>The Master’s University Athletic Scholarship, Tacoma Athletic Commission's Clint Names Female Multi-Sport Excellence Scholarship Award, University Place Education Association Scholarship, CHS George R. Curtis Award, Joe Thomas Memorial Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Rose Bryant</td>
<td>Pierce College Athletic Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jazmyne Dajana Calvillo</td>
<td>University of the Pacific President’s Scholarship, University of the Pacific Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel Alexis Castillo</td>
<td>Wanda Michaels Memorial Scholarship, Curtis Drama Booster Club Scholarship, Theatre Participant Acting Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Celedon Hinojosa</td>
<td>University of Washington Undergrad Tuition Exemption, University of Washington Scholarship, Washington State Opportunity Scholarship, Bernice A.B. Keys Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasmine Flair Cerezo</td>
<td>Outstanding English Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandra Cecilia Chacon</td>
<td>Pacific Lutheran University Academic Scholarship, Pacific Lutheran University Housing Scholarship, Pacific Lutheran University Q Club Scholarship, Pacific Lutheran University Visit Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josephine Mee-Sun Chang</td>
<td>College Bound Scholarship Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly Ann Noel Chase</td>
<td>Outstanding Yearbook Editorial Support Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jabez Jimin Choi</td>
<td>Questbridge National College Match Scholarship, Outstanding Orchestra Participant Award, Outstanding English Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah William Claxton Ward</td>
<td>Pacific Lutheran University Academic Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railynne Regi Clyburn</td>
<td>Pacific Lutheran University 253 Academic Scholarship, Outstanding Yearbook Editorial Support Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian Andre Cooke</td>
<td>Azusa Pacific University COTA Music Scholarship, Azusa Pacific University Honors College Scholarship, Azusa Pacific University President’s Scholarship, Azusa Pacific University Trustees’ Candidate Award, Marvin &amp; Leota Batt Scholarship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recipients

Nicole Dagsaan Cruz
Don Larsen Memorial Scholarship

Aniya Solay Green
Bill Doucette Memorial Scholarship

Andy San Hong
Boston College Merit Scholarship, Kagro Scholarship, Bernice A.B. Keys Scholarship, Kiwanis Club Scholarship

Noah Michael Daheim
Gonzaga University Achievement Scholarship, College Board Scholarship, CHS Viking Scholarship

Joshua Roger Gyer
USBC Smart Scholarship, Don Larsen Memorial Scholarship

Brooklyn Hose
The Palmer Scholars Scholarship, Tacoma Chapter of the Links Incorporated Scholarship, Daffodil Princess Scholarship, Elizabeth Wesley Incentive Award, CHS Viking Scholarship

Ziah Andre Davis
Theatre Participant Acting Award

Adrienne Taylor Harding
Pacific Lutheran University Academic Scholarship, Pacific Lutheran University Alumni Referral Scholarship, Pacific Lutheran University Visit Scholarship

Sterling Davis Hudspeth
Greg Paus Scholarship, Outstanding Choir Participant Award, Joe Thomas Memorial Scholarship

Michelle Jenila Layague De La Cerna
Western Washington University Admission with Distinction

Molly Elizabeth Hickey
Binghampton University Athletic Scholarship

Brycelin A. Hughes
Academy of Arts University Emerging Artist Scholarship

Takara Nayshawna English
Seattle University Academic Scholarship, Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award, DEA Chapter 35 Veteran's Scholarship, Tacoma Narrows Rotary Club Scholarship

Pierce Alan Higgins
New Mexico Tech Competitive Scholarship

Alyssa Camille Jensen
Loyola Marymount University Athletic Scholarship, Outstanding Photography Award

Carson Maxwell Failor
Western Washington University Scholarship

Ryan Shae Hilger
Outstanding Yearbook Editor Award

Gracen Holly Johnson
University Place Classified Association Scholarship

Hunter Thomas Freeman
University of Washington Academic Scholarship, Outstanding English Scholar

Carly Victoria-L. Hill
Bernice A.B. Keys Scholarship

Makenzie Marie Jones
Outstanding Choir Participant Award

Keegan James Gouldby
Outstanding Yearbook Editor Award

Elle Elizabeth Hillers
Indiana University Athletic Scholarship

Jennifer Y Kang
Outstanding Video Production Award

Alex Christopher Grabowski
Pierce College Athletic Scholarship

Elle Victoria Kangas
Western Washington University Academic Distinction Scholarship, Outstanding French Language Scholar

Go Vikings!

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Scholarship & Award Recipients (continued)

Julia Liting Kilduff
Gonzaga University Trustee Scholarship, Curtis PTSA Scholarship

Leo Nmn Lee
University of Washington Merit Scholarship

Josiah Alexander Miller
University Place Education Association Scholarship

Heewon Kim
Seattle Pacific University Falcon Bound Commitment Scholarship

Caitlyn Michelle Linde
University Place Education Association Scholarship

Rachel Dawn Min
College Bound Scholarship Washington

Minsuh Daniel Kim
University of Washington Undergrad Tuition Scholarship, College Bound Scholarship Washington

Ryan James Ling
Arizona State University Presidential Award Scholarship, Japanese American Citizens League Scholarship

Mugabi Mirimo
The Palmer Scholars Scholarship

Shane Hyun-Min Kim
Seattle University Achievement Scholarship

Emma Christine Lowery
University Place Principals Association Scholarship, Curtis PTSA Scholarship

Curtianna Shameelah Muhammad
Elizabeth Wesley Incentive Award

Shawn Hyun-Jun Kim
Emory University Liberal Arts Scholarship

Alexandra Maxine Benitez Magbaton
Outstanding Social Studies Scholar

Bushra Hashem Muqabel
Pacific Lutheran University Academic Scholarship, Pacific Lutheran University 253 Scholarship, Pacific Lutheran University Book Scholarship, College Bound Scholarship Washington

Sharon Ja Young Kim
University of Washington Undergraduate Scholarship

Braedon Charles Magoon
University of Minnesota National Scholarship, All-Around Science Scholar

Patrick Kellen Murdach
Oregon State - Evergreen State Scholarship

Anthony Joseph Kitowicz
Umass Lowell Academic Scholarship, Umass Lowell Merit Scholarship

Felina Batistis Martens
Pacific Lutheran University Art Merit Scholarship, Pacific Lutheran University Academic Merit Scholarship

Elias Kinyanjui Mwago
Outstanding Psychology Award

Margarita Korolova
University of Washington Scholarship

Joseph Pierce McClain
Cedarville University President’s Ministry Impact Scholarship, Cedarville University President’s Excellence Scholarship, Outstanding Math Scholar

Hannah Rose Ness
University Place Classified Association Scholarship

Brandy Jo Leach
Outstanding NJROTC Cadet Award

Joseph Hopper Melin
American University Dean’s Scholarship

McKenna Sway Olson
Outstanding Band Participant Award
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Therese Marie Pacio</td>
<td>College Bound Scholarship, Washington, University of Washington Undergraduate Scholarship, Fil-Am League Scholarship, Weller Orthodontics Scholarship, The Palmer Scholars Scholarship, CHS Viking Scholarship, Outstanding Math Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiefer Jonathan Paulson</td>
<td>Curtis PTSA Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madelynn Jeanae Quett</td>
<td>Pierce First Scholarship, University Place Classified Association Scholarship</td>
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<td>McKinley Rainey</td>
<td>Army ROTC Three-Year Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jude Henry Robinson Rowley</td>
<td>Pacific Lutheran University Academic Merit Scholarship, Pacific Lutheran University Alumni Scholarship</td>
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<td>Natalie Lane Roy</td>
<td>Seattle Pacific University President’s Scholar Scholarship, Seattle Pacific University Faith for the Future Scholarship, Seattle Pacific University Early Success Scholarship, Seattle Pacific University Fine Arts Scholarship, Seattle Pacific University In-State Matching Scholar Scholarship</td>
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<td>Courtney Lee Sawin</td>
<td>University of Redlands Achievement Award</td>
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<td>Samantha Diane Schultz</td>
<td>Northwest University Academic Scholarship, Northwest University Music Scholarship, Don Wolters Memorial Scholarship, Outstanding Orchestra Participant Award</td>
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<td>Lauren Marie Scoles</td>
<td>Washington State University Experience Scholarship, Washington State University Achievement Scholarship, Outstanding Physical Education Award</td>
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<td>Bret Michael Shellgren</td>
<td>George Fox University Merit Scholarship</td>
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<td>Audrey Marie Shry</td>
<td>Trinity University Tower Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anika Marie Shuckhart</td>
<td>Linfield College Academic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoe Ann Shuckhart</td>
<td>Academic Scholar Award for Seattle Pacific Univ., Seattle Pacific University Visit Scholarship, Seattle Pacific Uni. Early Success Award, Falcon-Bound Scholarship, WA State College-Bound Scholarship and Outstanding Family/Consumer Science Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethan Zachary Simental</td>
<td>Pacific Lutheran University Academic Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kayla Nicole Skipworth</td>
<td>Central Washington University President’s Award Scholarship, Central Washington University Athletic Scholarship</td>
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<td>Mac Wyler Stauffacher</td>
<td>University of Idaho Western Undergraduate Exchange Scholarship, Outstanding Marketing Education Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chase Dylan Stephens</td>
<td>Boston University Scholarship</td>
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<td>David Nathan Strupinski</td>
<td>Outstanding Social Studies Scholar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Sung</td>
<td>Macalester College Dewitt Wallace Scholarship, Macalester College Campus Residence Scholarship</td>
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<td>Nhu Phuong Tang</td>
<td>Bob Lucey Scholarship, Outstanding Marketing Education Award, Outstanding Physical Education Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheyenne K. Thaxton</td>
<td>Tacoma Narrows Rotary Club Scholarship, All-Around Science Scholar</td>
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<td>Kassidy Elizabeth Thomsen</td>
<td>Boise State University Western Undergraduate Exchange Scholarship</td>
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<td>Benjamin Robert Tilton</td>
<td>Cascade Regional Blood Drive Scholarship, Kiwanis Club Scholarship, Cindy Baldwin Memorial Scholarship, University Place Classified Association Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aaron Elias Van Valkenburg</td>
<td>Utah State University Western Undergraduate Exchange Scholarship, Curtis PTSA Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Ann vanZonneveld</td>
<td>Arizona State University Academic Scholarship, Katie Andrews Memorial Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roxana Vasquez-Rodriguez</td>
<td>Tacoma Elks Tronson Vocational Scholarship, Weller Orthodontics Scholarship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scholarship & Award Recipients (continued)

Macalister Allan Vukich
Tacoma Athletic Commission’s Tom Names Male Inspirational Athlete Scholarship Award, Tapco Credit Union Scholarship, The A.T. Cross Scholarship, Local 1488 West Pierce Firefighters Scholarship, WSCFF Scholarship, Tacoma Narrows Rotary Club Scholarship, Outstanding Business Award

Megan Wanjiru Wagikuyu
Seattle Pacific University Faith for The Future Scholarship, Seattle Pacific University LRAP Scholarship

Makeya Alysia White
Pacific Lutheran University Academic Scholarship, College Bound Scholarship Washington

Maya Noriko Williams
Tacoma Community College Athletic Scholarship

TyAnna Michelle Webb
Shane Maumasi Tropik Art Scholarship, Outstanding Spanish Language Scholar, Artistic Excellence Award

Helen Orris Wilke
University of Washington Academic Scholarship

Michael Casey Williams
Outstanding Business Award

Ryan Dean Wheeler
Tacoma Athletic Commission’s Scott Names Male Athlete of the Year Scholarship Award, Theatre Stagecraft Award Athletic Scholarship to Colorado Mesa University

Kaitlin Clare Williams
Pacific Lutheran University Academic Scholarship

Aizayah Makahiapo Yacapin
Simon Fraser University Athletic Scholarship, Ben B. Cheney Scholarship, Bob Lucey Scholarship, Keith Johnson Award

Marylnn Jody Auelua

Kaleo Wailani Baker

Janelle Cassandra Basconcillo

Courtney Lauren Baughman

Ethan Michael Baydo

Megan Serina Berry

Jacob Christopher Bethard

Javonta’e Narquis Bolden

Jason Alexander Brock

Kloei Renee Brown

Emily Rose Bryant

Jerome Sailas Buyondo

Holly Ann Chase

Railyne Regi Clyburn

Noah Michael Daheim

Ziah Andre Davis

Kyle Willard Dobson

Takara Nayshawna English

Kody Daniel Feyedelem

Harrison Edward Garvey

Keegan James Gouldby

Jirianela Norma Guizar

Zachary Cory Gutfeld

Joshua Roger Gyer

Jeremiah Wilson Hall

Drew Taylor Harris

Scholarship Award Recipients

Service Award Recipients
Honoring Becky James: 
Teacher of the Year
Longtime Special Programs Teacher Named 2020 Teacher of the Year

"You’ll never get me out of Special Programs or special education," says UPSD Teacher of the Year Rebecca (Becky) James. “I like it too much and I like that other adults get to experience the joy that I do,” she adds. James was 21 when she started teaching and feels fortunate to have found a career that she loves. “How lucky I am that I have a job that I still have passion for,” she says.

A teacher at Sunset Primary School with a master’s degree in special education, James has taught special programs students throughout the district since 2001 and has built lifelong relationships with many of her students and their families.

“Becky James possesses an unparalleled depth of knowledge of the varied needs and abilities of each and every one of her Special Programs students,” says Sunset Principal Steve Hagen. “Becky instills in her students the belief that they can and will meet their goals, and the students respond by working hard to do so and to make sure she is pleased with their effort. There is no teacher who is more universally appreciated by the parents and families of his/her students,” he adds.

Individual attention is at the center of James’ work with her students to help them succeed. With school closures and the need for distance teaching and learning this past spring, James felt the best way to communicate with her students and parents was one-on-one. She would typically set up individual “Google Meet” video conference calls for her students/parents along with a team of support specialists who would also participate in the calls.

James has been previously nominated by her peers and by her students’ parents for teacher of the year multiple times. Congratulations to such a deserving educator.