



*Fun at the HUB!*

**Winter Social:** In our busy lives, we frequently schedule virtual meetings to increase efficiency and to save ourselves precious time. In-person gatherings, however, are foundational to building authentic relationships and networks. This is why we prioritize hosting quarterly whole program events as part of an array of Frazier Scholars services.

Our Winter Social at the UW Husky Union Building (HUB) buzzed as students, corporate volunteers, program staff, and East Seattle Partners gathered for an evening of bowling and mingling. We could feel palpable energy as genuine connections were made in this casual campus setting where everyone felt a sense of belonging. Events like these create community and provide a comfortable environment for scholars to expand their networks. After the event, scholars commented on how much they appreciated and enjoyed getting to know the professionals who are invested in their success as people, students, and next-generation career professionals.

**Informational Interviews:** Connecting scholars with professionals for informational interviews is also a top priority for our program. Such meetings help our scholars build social capital and gain practical insights into specific industries that they might not get elsewhere. Time and again we've observed that benefits go both ways. Professionals leave informational interviews hopeful and energized by scholars' talent and potential; scholars leave informed and inspired by professionals' sage advice. We tailor all introductions to interests; when a scholar tells us they'd like to learn more about a specific career area, we go through our growing contact list to see who a good fit might be. During this academic year we have directly facilitated 48 informational interviews, though we suspect the actual number is higher, as we teach scholars to leave informational interviews with names of other industry experts for continued networking. This proactive habit was on full display at our winter social as several scholars scheduled informational interviews with new connections made that evening at the HUB!

*Meeting with Frazier Scholars has been a great joy. As a first-generation student myself, it's great to share my story with the Scholars and I love being a resource for them in their career journey.*

Ana Linares – Slalom  
On Informational Interviews

We are always looking to expand our list of professionals "on call" to do informational interviews. So, if you or a business colleague are interested in meeting with a scholar, please contact our Corporate Liaison, Sandy Aslanian at [sandy@eastseattlefoundation.com](mailto:sandy@eastseattlefoundation.com)

*By the numbers...*

- **Participants:** Since fall 2021, we have provided support to a total of 25 UW college students.
- **Cohort:** This month our 2023-2024 Year 3 Cohort grew to 18.
- **Alumni:** By June 2024, Frazier Scholars Alumni will reach 17!

**Internships and Post-graduation Employment:** A recent report titled [Talent Disrupted](#), produced by Strada Education Foundation and the Burning Glass Institute, presents evidence that earning a college degree does not automatically result in securing a promising job with career opportunities. One of the most alarming statistics cited is that *52 percent of graduates are underemployed a year after graduation*, and perhaps even more disturbingly, underemployment tends to persist for decades. However, there's good news regarding internships as they correlate with successful post-graduation employment. Remarkably, having just one internship can improve outcomes significantly. Our takeaway... we are on the right track at Frazier Scholars, but there's more work ahead to position our scholars for post-graduation success.

As we begin spring quarter, some of our scholars are actively searching for opportunities or are currently interviewing. Others have already accepted internship offers at companies including Brighton Jones, Pugh Capital, Cisco, and Google. We are also excited

to share that upon graduation five scholars will launch their careers at BNY Mellon, Dell Technologies, Microsoft, Amazon, and EY! Given the competitive and turbulent nature of the job market, such milestones are indeed a cause for celebration!