

THE BOTTOM LINE

WHAT CREATING FUTURES, AT THE
END OF THE DAY, IS ALL ABOUT



Wonder whether the Foster campaign has made a difference? Just ask Patricia Dixon, a senior studying finance at the Foster School, about the profound impact of private support on her life.

Dixon was born in the Philippines but raised around the United States as her father's Air Force career dictated. Though her parents were of modest means and schooling, they instilled in their children a deep respect for the transformative power of education. And they squirreled away a little money to help Patricia become the first in either family to attend college.

Though Dixon was accepted by the UW, the small savings were going to fall far short of the cost of tuition, fees and housing for even one year. That is, until a Costco Diversity Scholarship—and many more to follow—allowed her to not only attend the Foster School, but also to take advantage of many opportunities afforded by the UW.

She has studied architecture in Rome and international business in South Africa. She has interned at Boeing, Ernst & Young and Washington Mutual. And she has attended the prestigious Harvard Business School Summer Ventures in Management program. While working in the Foster Undergraduate Programs Office, she still finds time to serve as president of the Association of Black Business Students, teach ESL at Seattle's Asian Counseling and Referral Service and mentor high school students through the Young Executives of Color program of the UW Business and Economic Development Center. And she keeps a 3.6 GPA.

Dixon says that a network of scholarship support gave her a chance. In addition to the Costco scholarship, she has received the Lothrop Endowed Scholarship Fund, the Association of Black Business Students Endowed Scholarship and the BEDC Fellowship, among several others.

This year, Foster School scholarships support nearly 400 undergraduate, MBA, MPAcc and doctoral students—more than \$2 million in assistance from 75 scholarship endowments.

"I'm proud to say that I've never had to use any of the money that my parents saved for me," Dixon says. "I have paid for college on my own, with enormous help from scholarships."

Patricia Dixon is not every student. Her transformation story may be more dramatic than most. But she—as all students to come after her—represents the Foster School's real bottom line,

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the ultimate reason for Campaign UW. To offer a transformative education from inspiring professors in a state-of-the-art facility is a gift. To create opportunity through scholarship support, innovative programs and responsive curricula is a gift.

And students like Dixon are proof that a gift can be a powerful renewable resource.

In addition to her volunteer service, Dixon has begun providing financial support to her extended family who live in bamboo huts on a remote island in the Philippines, without electricity, running water, telephone, stores or educational opportunity.

"When I visited with my mom last winter, they asked how I'm able to go to school, so I explained what scholarships are," she says. "And they were surprised that there could be people out there giving away more money than they could ever make in a lifetime. I've learned to appreciate everything that I have in my life—especially my access to education.

"I'm able to give back because of the generosity and kindness that I have received." ■