

# CommunityCentral

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”

Marian Wright Edelman

## GIVING BACK

**S**ervice to our community is part of our mission. Through Seattle Central's community service/volunteer program, students earn credit for the volunteer work they do in the community. Students volunteer for work in schools, hospitals, food banks, social service organizations, and environmental organizations.

**In a typical year, about 170 students participate and contribute more than 8,000 hours to the community.**

- Seattle Central's Dental Hygiene students provide oral health care and education for underserved patients at the Seattle Vocational Institute clinic.
- Opticianry students work with the Lions Club to clean and repair glasses for people worldwide; students also make new glasses to distribute after disasters to people who may have lost their glasses.



Each year the students in the Apparel Design Program learn to construct a ski jacket. These sample jackets are then donated to a charity organization that supports kids and families.

- Students in the Advanced Web Design & Development class volunteer hundreds of hours building websites for non-profit clients that help our community.
- Faculty and staff in the Business and Information Technology departments host an annual outreach event called GLITTER to encourage high school girls to enter the IT industry.
- Wood Construction students build homes and facilities for the community, such as a concrete foundation for a rock wall around the perimeter of Seattle Parks & Recreation's Kubota Garden.



## Rebuilding New Orleans

Twenty students from Seattle Central's Wood Construction Center traveled to New Orleans to help repair homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Students installed drywall, windows and doors, and worked on finish carpentry and cabinetry during their seven-day visit.

“Several people told me they were so grateful to see that people in this country have not forgotten them,” said former student Julia Cordero, who organized the trip. “It seems to give them strength to keep going with the slow and difficult rebuild.”

“ I love working with our veterans. I can relate to what they went through and what they are trying to achieve. ”

Tony Diaz, Vietnam veteran and Seattle Central veterans coordinator

## SERVING THE UNDERSERVED

**A**t Seattle Central, our doors are open to anyone. Fifty percent of our students are students of color. We welcome students from more than 50 nations. Anyone willing to work hard can succeed at Seattle Central.

### Basic and Transitional Studies

About 20 percent of our students are enrolled in basic studies or English as a Second Language courses.

### Worker Retraining

Many students receive benefits through the Worker Retraining program, which retrains students for a new professional or technical career.

### College Success

Seattle Central participates in the College Success Program, which provides financial assistance, mentoring, and academic assistance to former foster care youth.

### The Seattle Vocational Institute

SVI provides critical assistance and job training to at-risk young adults. Its training programs have been recognized as a national model for excellence.

### Women's and WorkFirst Programs

Working parents find support through the Women's Services and WorkFirst office, which provides counseling and financial assistance to low-income parents.



## CREATING FUTURE LEADERS

**S**eattle Central is a leadership incubator for our community. Our students develop skills in an environment that is as diverse and dynamic as the real world.

The Student Leadership division supports student development by providing resources and mentoring in addition to supporting more than 50 student clubs and committees. Specifically, the Leaders Amongst Leaders program promotes collaborative, service-centered leadership.

The college has one of the most active and largest Phi Theta Kappa (national honor society for two-year schools) chapters in the nation. Our PTK students have amassed more than \$1 million in scholarships for their academic excellence and community service projects.



Toan Viradet (left) and Carlito Umali (right) epitomize the transformations that happen at Seattle Central. Both are first-generation college students who spoke English as a second language. Each became PTK members, graduated with honors, and received Foundation scholarships.

Toan graduated from the UW Seattle Foster School of Business and is an analyst at Accenture. Carlito transferred to Seattle University and was selected as the commencement speaker.