Thank you, Anthon!

After 12 years at the helm, Anthon Smith is stepping away as our Executive Director, having served over 500 students in that time! As Cris Gonzalez, SEA Board President describes, “Anthon’s dedication to our students has been whole-hearted and inspiring – from the very beginning.”

“In 2007, I was sitting in the dayroom of E Unit at McNeil Island Prison and somehow had gotten a flyer from Seattle Education Access. I had just gotten my GED and just knew this was the next step. I was tired of being trapped, literally... both physically and mentally. Anthon’s help gave me the jumpstart I needed to reach my goals, and most importantly, support others on the same journey.”

~Jason

“My plan was to just complete my AA. But after meeting Anthon I was able to dream big. With Anthon’s empowerment, motivation and support, I was able to graduate with my Master’s degree.”

~Ganita

“Anthon has been always there for me. As a foreign student, and being away from home and family, Anthon’s assistance made my life easier. I am absolutely grateful for all Anthon’s contributions to my success in my education. I am glad I found SEA, and I am glad I found Anthon!”

~Nadir

“Thank you, Anthon, for being so open and sharing. I really felt comfortable and safe. Thanks for coming to my graduation, I couldn’t have done it without you and SEA!”

~Shan

“Anthon was the first person who made me feel like I could accomplish any goal I made for myself. Every time I went to Anthon’s office feeling frazzled, stressed and depressed, I left feeling competent, able and loved.”

~Emily
“You will never be going through anything alone.”

My name is Angelica Alfaro, I am a junior at Highline College. Going to college is a big deal for my family, especially since I am first one in my family to attend. I am currently going to school to become an Ultrasound Technician. I have wanted to go into the medical field since I was 12 years old.

I am so passionate about this career path. It is incredible being able to determine the sex of the baby! Knowing that there is life growing is close to magic. I believe I am strong enough for the emotional rollercoaster of this field.

Getting a degree will be a new beginning. I want to be able to provide for myself and become independent. A job is something you have to do to get by. The difference between a career and a job is waking up looking forward to what is coming next. The biggest challenge that I am facing in college right now is time. There isn’t enough time to be able to learn and understand subjects that are being taught in classes. The material is difficult to understand in just three months. I am thankful that I have a bunch of SEA tutors that are willing to work with me. Without my tutor, Craig, I wouldn’t have gotten my driver’s license. Without my tutor, Eric, I wouldn’t have passed biology class. If I hadn’t gotten introduced to SEA, I never would have made it this far.

I would love for other people to know that SEA is a program that always provides hope and support. SEA gives a lot of hope for me, and one thing about SEA you have to learn is that you will never be going through anything alone.

Laird Norton Company Supports 73 Students!

“There is nothing more important in our society than making sure that every child has an opportunity for a meaningful education. In the 21st century, education is the gatekeeper for a person to earn a living wage in this country and in breaking down many social barriers. At the Laird Norton Company, we are committed through our donations and actions in making sure that this gate is pried open for every child.”

- Jeff Vincent, CEO & President

In 2017, something big happened at Seattle Education Access. The Laird Norton Company (LNC) partnered with SEA and YouthCare to create the LNC Scholarship Fund. LNC’s goal was to provide higher education support to young people struggling to overcome poverty, without the many limitations of typical scholarships. Together with SEA, they have succeeded!

Who is Laird Norton? Based in Seattle, the Laird Norton Company is a 7th generation family-owned enterprise that provides long-term capital and resources, empowering partners to thrive. They care deeply about our communities, and it shows.
“Education has always been an area of focus for the Laird Norton Company and Laird Norton family. Several years ago, we recognized a need to expand our impact in this sector,” Jennifer Polson, LNC’s Communications & Marketing Manager explained. “While education has always been forefront in our nonprofit partnerships and donations, we set out to create a scholarship fund without traditional restrictions.”

“We realized many scholarships only paid for tuition or textbooks, or included stringent requirements for the students. These restrictions could limit or eliminate the scholarship funds provided to them for that year,” Jennifer continued.

“The gifts from Laird Norton have been game changers,” Katy Childers, SEA Director of Development and Finance, said. “So far, 73 students have been awarded scholarships. That’s 73 students who have been able to stay in school because of Laird Norton’s support!”

Laird Norton scholarship recipients receive support for bus passes, tuition, rental assistance, school supplies, and other basic needs, the small expenses that make school possible. We deeply appreciate Laird Norton’s commitment to SEA students!

Meet Craig Branham, arguably SEA’s bravest volunteer! By day, Craig is a sales training program manager in the IT industry. In his down time, he volunteers to help SEA students prepare for the driving test.

As Craig explained, “I have been supporting SEA financially for many years, but I wanted to do more; it’s such a great organization! I took the driving assignment specifically because it’s a chance to share a life skill, and I thought that might be interesting. The state road test is a rite of passage, a turning point in a young person’s journey into autonomy and responsibility. I’ll always remember the excitement of my own first time behind the wheel; it’s rewarding to be able to share that experience.”

Craig’s advice for other volunteers? “Celebrate moments of discovery and mastery, the student’s and your own.”
SEA Graduation Party
May 8th, 2019
You're invited!

You can change a life through education today. Donate at SeattleEducationAccess.org

SEA Data Sneak Peek!

Student Wins!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>946 Students served in 2018</th>
<th>2,114 Total students 2011-2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>College Prep</td>
<td>493 Students Served</td>
<td>119 Earned High School Diploma/GED</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Success</td>
<td>453 Students Served</td>
<td>262 Started College</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>66 Earned a Degree</td>
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SEA Students

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Experience Homelessness</th>
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<td>People of Color</td>
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