The Jackson Foundation has long held ties with the UW Evans School of Public Policy & Governance, one of the nation’s premier public policy graduate programs. The School provides leading-edge scholarship, rigorous academics, and community engagement that advances the public good by centering public discourse, equity, and justice.

To address our goal to promote values-based leadership, the Foundation recently made a second investment in the School’s Junior Summer Institute (JSI) program. A signature priority of Dean Jodi Sandfort, JSI focuses on rising undergraduate seniors from historically underrepresented groups and provides preparatory coursework and exposure to public policy graduate schools and career opportunities.

The School brought its own perspective to the curriculum, including studying community engagement around public discourse, and promoting equity and justice. Students learned about core public policy topics, heard from current practitioners, presented mini-capstone projects, participated in workshops, and networked during their time in Seattle.

The Evans School drew on its faculty and staff to implement the program, as well as other UW resources and community members. This included two Jackson Leadership Fellows: Jamie Stroble served on a career panel for climate and environmental justice, while Keeley Perez Woolley mentored two JSI students.

The Jackson Foundation is proud to support JSI at the Evans School, which guides students onto a runway toward public policy graduate school, contributes toward their success, and helps students transition into public service careers. More broadly, it strengthens the public service sector through diversifying the leadership of civil society and government.

To enrich the students’ experience, the Evans School invites our local community members to serve as mentors, speakers, and site visit hosts. The second year of the program will run next year from June through early August. To express interest in engaging with the program, please contact the Evans School.
Senator Jackson room opens in Everett, Washington

Visitors to the Everett History Museum’s Van Valey House can now tour the Senator Henry M. Jackson Room, an exhibition about the Senator’s life and career. Our thanks go to Anna Marie Laurence, the Senator’s daughter and Jackson Foundation Board Secretary, for her extensive work curating the display. The room contains photographs and historic artifacts that tell Scoop’s story from his early years growing up in Everett to his legislative legacy, highlighting his role as a public servant and statesman.

Anna Marie Laurence said:

I hope visitors who see Scoop’s story will not only learn some history about Everett’s beloved native son, but also be reminded that public service is a noble and essential calling. The values-based leadership he championed is fundamental to meeting our collective challenges and to achieving meaningful progress. Scoop’s example reminds us that leadership does not require brashness – even the humble can be a powerful force for change if they are inspired to get involved with their communities and put the public good above their own.

In addition to the Jackson Room, the Van Valey House features period furnishings and articles from the Van Valey and Morrow families who called it home. The House is decorated through mid-January for the holidays.

Located at 2130 Colby Avenue in Everett, WA, the Van Valey House is open to the public Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Visitors may call (425-257-6300) to request a tour on other days.

Featured opportunity grant

The Foundation’s Opportunity Grants, smaller grants of up to $5,000, support activities such as conducting programming centered on our goals, holding policy-oriented roundtable discussions, and bringing in expert speakers, to create small wins aligned with our mission. These activities are often in Washington state, and some focus on work in greater Snohomish County to further the Foundation’s priorities and to honor Senator Jackson’s hometown ties to Everett, Washington.

A recent Snohomish County grantee is Leadership Launch, which engages student leaders in building and practicing leadership skills to enact change in their local communities. Working with students from ninth grade through their first year of college or certification program, it strives to empower, equip, and engage student leaders from a place of equity. Leadership Launch teaches and models a leadership curriculum created with a trauma-informed lens, and helps to pave equitable pathways to college. We proudly support this admirable organization that advances our goal to invest in values-based leadership.
Michele Frix graduated in July 2022 from the London School of Economics and Political Science with her Executive Master of Public Administration, where she focused on public policy, fiscal governance and budgeting, regulatory analysis, and economic policy analysis. She was honored to graduate with a global cohort representing nearly 20 nationalities.

Maxime Gasteen is now Senior Program Officer in Leadership Advising, where he helps shape Melinda French Gates’ advocacy and policy priorities as Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Joe Nguyen won his reelection campaign for the Washington State Senate’s 34th Legislative District, and was selected by the Senate Democratic Caucus to chair the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee in the 2023 legislative session.

Shin Yu Pai is the Guest Curator for The Bushwick Book Club’s InkAloud author showcase. Also, Season 2 of KUOW’s podcast production The Blue Suit is proceeding; new episodes will start publishing in May 2023.

Tamara Power-Drutis has been promoted to Senior Manager of Project and Program Management for New Glenn at Blue Origin.

Kristine Reeves won her campaign to recapture the seat she previously held in the Washington State House of Representatives’ 30th Legislative District.

Stephen Robinson highlighted the Black Future Co-op Fund’s new report, Black Well-being.

Nicole Sirivansanti has begun studying at the Seattle Institute of East Asian Medicine to become a practitioner of acupuncture and herbal medicine. She also joined the small but mighty Space Between team as co-director to share mindfulness practice with students and their communities in Washington.

Simphiwe Laura Stewart passed her PhD defense, earning a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Geography and the Environment at the University of Oxford.