

complex, just as they were in his college years. But, if you ask Christian what has been most important in his journey he will tell you – it's that he hasn't done it alone.

Christian will tell you that Act Six isn't an ordinary scholarship, because it doesn't end after the check is in the bank or after graduation. What makes Act six special is the people walking with you – before, during, and after. Not just the resources, the training, the education or the networks (which are all important), but the fact that every step of the way you have the support of your cadre.

For Christian, Act Six represents a network and a family that will live on for a lifetime. What makes it special is the enduring nature of those relationships and the growing network of scholars with a shared journey that binds them together. For Christian, that is the greatest gift of all.

When Christian thinks about his future he thinks about coming back to Tacoma someday soon. He thinks everyday about representing Tacoma and his fellow Act Six family and about the commitment they all share to make the city they love a better place.

Christian is driven and inspired by the future unfolding of the collective impact of Act Six graduates that goes beyond the program alone. He thinks about how the network and pipeline of Act Six scholars can replicate their experiences at the grass roots levels; in communities and schools, as teachers and other professionals, continuing to model and share the experience they have had with others. Ensuring that no one has to do it alone.

Christian would say: We are scholars. We are leaders. We are change. We are trees. We are a forest of amazing trees that are rooted in the places we love and reaching out to make a difference.

Maybe most important of all Christian would tell you – we are family and we've got each other's backs.

Visit the Degrees of Change website to hear Christian's own voice through his spoken word piece "Trees" at degreesofchange.org.



But, if you ask Christian what has been most important in his journey he will tell you – it's that he hasn't done it alone.

Together we grow impact!

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TO COLLEGE AND BACK .TOGETHER.

2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT

Call us Leaders.
Call us Scholars.
Call us Change.



Call us Trees.

At Degrees of Change we are growing scholars and leaders. We are supporting and nurturing agents of change. Our scholars and leaders are becoming 'trees' rooted deeply in the communities they grew up in and developing strong foundations from which they reach out and impact the whole world. These "trees" are having impact that builds up their hometowns and beyond: a return of diverse, gifted, and passionate leaders for today and for the future.



Growing up his whole life in Tacoma, Christian Paige will tell you about the importance of the people who had his back.

He will also tell you about some of the more challenging years of adolescence – about starting high school at Mount Tahoma, before moving to Stadium, and eventually graduating from Life Christian Academy.

He will tell you about a memorable moment for him when he began his Act Six journey. A moment of realization sitting around the fire on a wilderness excursion with his fellow Act Six cadre members. A moment where a feeling of belonging and family washed over him. A feeling that reminded him of those early years of people having his back.

The other thing that Christian will tell you is that the only thing he'd ever been seen as really good at was basketball. It was Act Six that recognized him and his cadre members as geniuses in their own right, celebrating their experiences and gifts as the key to thriving communities of the future.

These days Christian works as an equity specialist for the Bellevue School District. When he's not doing that he is traveling performing spoken word and speaking to and inspiring others around issues of equity and access.

The wisdom he shares is deep and the issues he confronts in his work and his art are



PO Box 1573 | 1102 Commerce St, Ste 400 | Tacoma, WA 98401
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Thank you

Together we have accomplished a lot at Degrees of Change.

This past program year we maintained our incredible 82% graduation rate. We celebrated 45 new college graduates. We selected, trained, and sent 230 new scholars to college – a 45% increase from the previous year.

As you can see so much more is possible when we “go together”: so much more for our students when they go to college together. So much more when our communities and colleges come together to support our students. So much more when local businesses come together to offer local students summer internships.

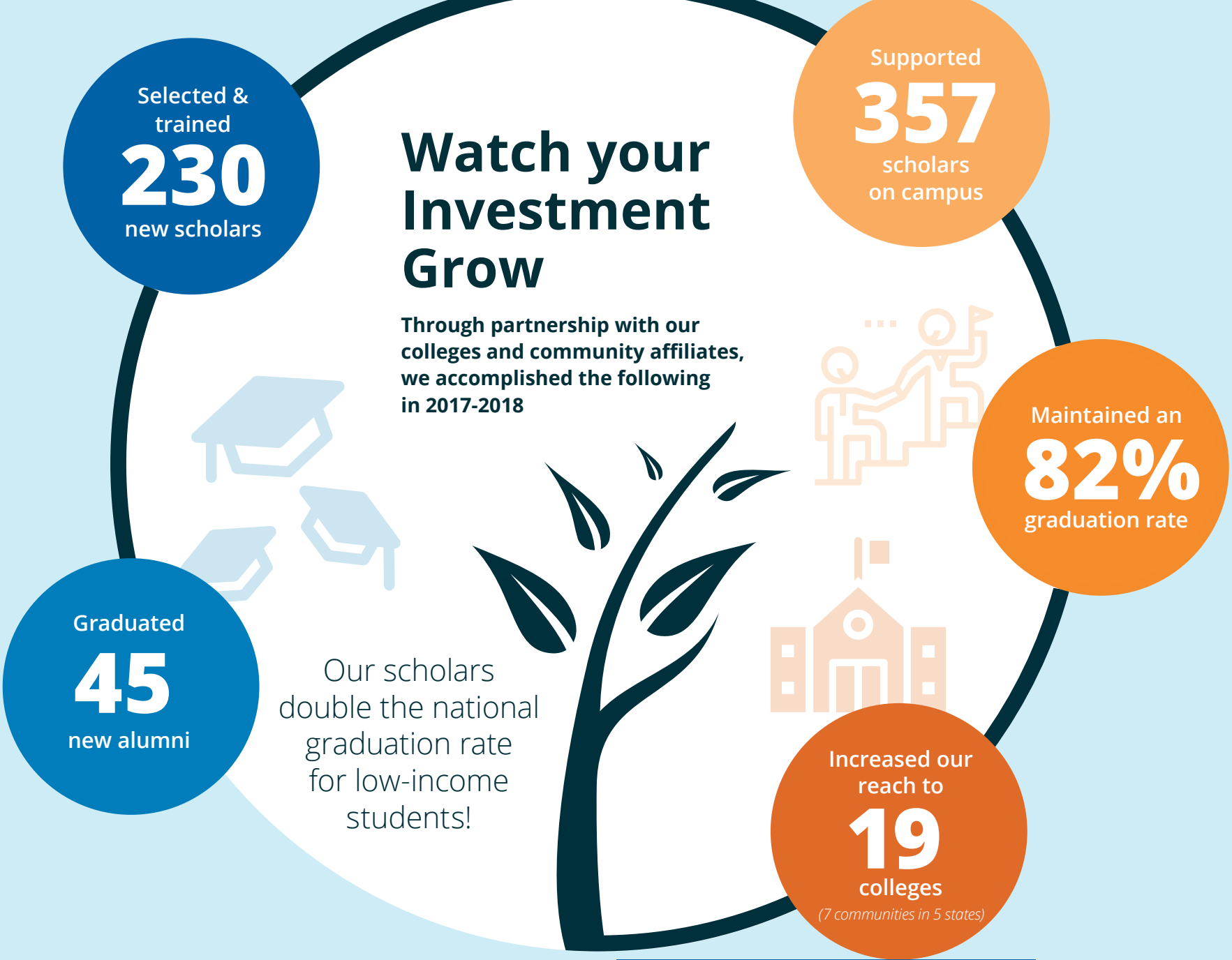
This past year we have planted more seeds to grow our impact. We’re investing in more vibrant and flourishing communities by developing diverse, homegrown, college-educated leaders who will help steward the future of their communities.

Some of those seeds include taking on the operations of the local Tacoma-Seattle programs. Many other seeds are described in our new 30-month strategic plan, which outlines how Degrees of Change will sustain and grow our strong outcomes for our community affiliates, colleges, scholars and alumni across the country. One particular seed we are most excited about is the implementation of new programming in Tacoma, like a new professional internship program, that once piloted at the local level will deliver another replicable model for other affiliates across our national network.

Yes, we’ve come a long way. And we still have far to go. But we are confident that we’ll continue to go together, as donors and volunteers, foundations, community affiliates and partner colleges, in support of our talented scholars and alumni who continue to grow into trees that will create more just and vibrant communities in the years and decades ahead.

Thank you for helping us plant the seeds. Thank you for going together with us.

TIM & BRADD
President & Board Chair



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Financial Summary 2017-2018



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\$394,000 Current Assets
\$102,000 Other Assets

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\$115,000 Current Liabilities
\$178,000 Unrestricted Net Assets
\$203,000 Temporarily Restricted Net Assets