

## 2014 Dream Awards Recipients

### Legacy Dream Award - Pastor Ron Pierre Vignec



### Bio/Nomination Information

The Legacy Dream Awards recognize persons or organizations outside of UW Tacoma who have made significant contributions to the UW Tacoma community in the areas of diversity, social justice or civil rights. This award encompasses contributions spanning five or more years.

Our first nominee is described as "the Poet of the Eastside, Bringer of Peace to the troubled, Forager of Food for the hungry, Speaker of Truth to power, Sharer of Burdens with the hopeless, and Santa Claus to those who choose to believe."

Pastor Ron Pierre Vignec first came to the South Sound to serve as the campus minister at Pacific Lutheran University, and later worked to found the Salishan Lutheran Mission. He brought the concept of Asset-Based Community Development to the Salishan Mission, in order to identify the needs of the community, and empower members of the community to lead.

In the neighborhood of poor families, food was the magic lure that drew people, especially kids, to participate in healthy programs. Pastor Ron, as everyone called him,

took to keeping a stash of non-perishable staples in the mission van so that he could offer hungry families immediate help.

Ron's wife Nancy shared, "We focused a lot of work on three things. Responding to basic needs, identifying gifts and aspirations and having people share those gifts with the whole community."

When Associated Ministries started its Moments of Blessing to reclaim the places where murder victims fell, Pastor Ron was among the first clerics to join. Since then, the program has filled pole after pole with ribbons bearing the names of victims throughout Pierce County.

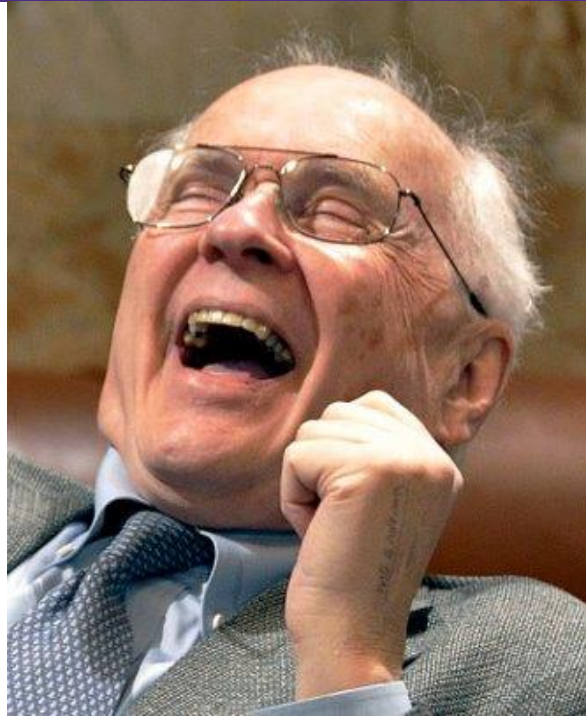
"Ron attended many, many, many moments of blessing," Nancy said. "Often he was the only person there. He often had some of those poles in the car. That ministry was extremely important to him. He thought it was very, very valuable. It is a perfect example of the kind of minister he was – always in the community."

Not only was he always in the community, he was always feeling the community. He carried with him the grief of fathers whose sons were heading to prison, the helplessness of moms who could not rescue children from drugs.

He shared that heavy understanding in his advocacy. He stood in meetings, and in his sermons, speaking in what was the poetry of God's love. Pastor Ron passed away late last year, but his legacy in our community lives on. We congratulate Pastor Ron Pierre Vignec and his family as a recipient of the 2014 Legacy Dream Award.

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## Legacy Dream Award - Dennis Flannigan



### Bio/Nomination Information

Described as one of Pierce County's most involved social justice and civil rights leaders. From the 1960's, through present day, Dennis Flannigan has passionately been involved in civil rights and community advocacy issues. Starting with his work in Alabama and Mississippi to register voters at great personal risk in the 1960's, Dennis's public service has had an impact on several communities; to being elected to the Pierce County Council, to serving four terms as State Representative. Dennis developed and was the first CEO of the Pierce County Alliance Drug and Alcohol treatment program; the originator and organizer of Safe Streets in the 1980's-pulling together the entire community to organize to take our streets back from Gang Violence and domination. Dennis also founded the Emergency Food Network. His work has had a tremendous impact on the Tacoma Community.

Even now in his retirement, Dennis continues to be a leader in a variety of community action efforts including developing a community - neighborhood garden in his back yard, to advocacy for tribal rights, and working in behalf of disability rights. He has served on many UW Tacoma advisory groups and continues to speak to UW Tacoma classes about community needs and development.

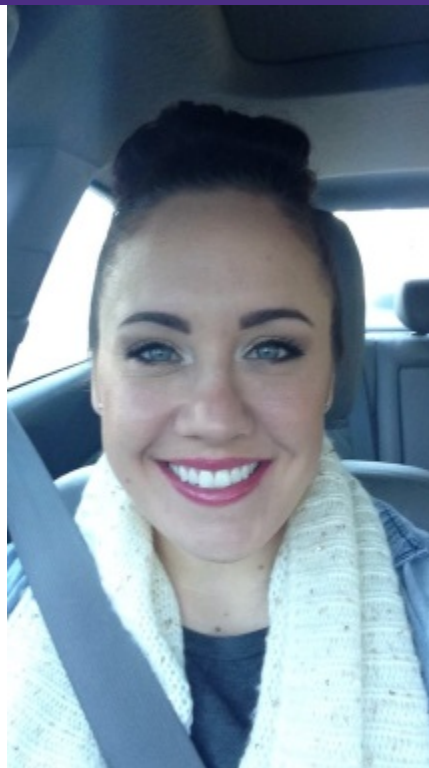
His nominator wrote, "Dennis is one of the best living role models of doing Dr. King's call for service and justice in our community." Dennis Flannigan is one of Pierce County's most involved social justice and civil rights leaders. Since the 1960's until today Dennis has

been passionately involved in civil rights and community advocacy issues. He developed and was the first CEO of the Pierce County Alliance Drug and Alcohol treatment program; elected to the State Legislature's 27th District (UWT's district); the originator and organizer of Safe Streets in the 1980's-early 90's pulling together the entire community to organize to take our streets back from Gang Violence and domination.

Dennis continues in his retirement to be a leader in a variety of community action efforts including developing a community - neighborhood garden in his back yard to advocacy for tribal rights and working in behalf of disability rights. He has served on many UWT advisory groups and speaks to UWT classes about community needs and development. Dennis is one of the most living role models of doing Dr. King's call for service and justice in our community.

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### Student Dream Award - Erin Sataloff



### Bio/Nomination Information:

Erin Sataloff has been a credit to the University of Washington Tacoma regarding issues of diversity, free speech, and community. Since the time I have known her, Erin has been a strong instigator of change and activism throughout her community. She is extremely passionate about human rights, and is not afraid to be an active voice both on and off campus. Recently, Erin has taken on a leadership role in her activities on campus and in the community. She worked directly with the Tacoma Rescue Mission, a homeless shelter



in Tacoma, and organized a food service event in which members of the Psychology Club were encouraged to donate time in food preparation and lunch service, and collected over 500 food items for the Tacoma Rescue Mission.

Erin has also been a strong force on campus regarding controversial discriminatory issues. She created a petition to oppose the use of prior criminal convictions in admission decisions, and actively spoke to students and teachers to promote awareness. She collected over 150 signatures in just a short period of time, and brought to many students attention the significance of this issue. By actively supporting the opposition of using prior criminal convictions in admissions criteria, Erin demonstrated that she is an active voice in her community, and is not afraid to fight against discrimination.

Erin has demonstrated her dedication to the promotion of activism and equality throughout her community.

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## Organization Dream Award - Project IGNITE



## Bio/Nomination Information:

The Organization Dream Award recognizes student organizations that have demonstrated consistent commitment to diversity and equality through innovative programming, campus and community involvement, activism and leadership development. On November 8, 2013 Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines. The impact of this devastating storm was felt here in the Tacoma community, as students, staff and faculty struggled to support family and friends an ocean away. In the immediate days after the storm, a small group of students came together to develop a response to this disaster.

The students described their response in stating, "Project Ignite was organized by a number of UWT students who desired to bring awareness to world issues including poverty, war, natural disasters and etc. These students dedicated an effort to organize and mobilize their fellow UWT peers, as well as, faculty and staff to raising awareness to these issues.

This was, of course, an effort of collaboration in uniting the campus and community members, holding a remembrance in honor of our brothers and sisters across seas and establishing a message of hope and sympathy to the entire world. Project Ignite is an ongoing movement which we hope to tell the world that although we may be separated by miles, our compassion and love for one another will always bring us together under one Sun and Sky."

Following the typhoon, in only seven days of planning, Project IGNITE successfully reached out to over 200 community members, held a candlelight vigil, and collaborated with three relief aid organizations that raised funds and donations for the Philippines.