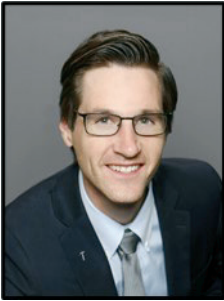




THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025
YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

Unite For
Good

DR. DAVID KNIGHT
BEHIND THE NUMBERS: SCHOOL FINANCE
& EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Dr. David Knight is the Director of the Center for the Study of Teaching and Policy and the Center for Early Childhood Policy and Equity at the University of Washington, where he also serves as an Associate Professor of Education Finance and Policy.

He has played an increasingly visible role in Washington's education policy landscape, providing data-driven analysis and expert insight to lawmakers, state agencies, and advocacy groups. His work has been cited in legislative testimony and has informed critical discussions around:

- K-12 funding equity
- Budget impacts on underserved communities
- Teacher shortages and staffing disparities
- Early Childhood education investment

His research has made significant contributions to our understanding of how educational dollars are distributed across communities and why that matters for outcomes; and was used as part of the Washington State Legislature's review of school funding formulas. He has contributed data and commentary to help illuminate the long-term effects of budget cuts and investments on districts serving students from low-income families.

Dr. Knight's research has been featured and extensively referenced by local and national media outlets, including The Seattle Times, particularly in coverage of statewide education funding debates and efforts to close opportunity gaps. In recent years, The Times has used his data to help readers understand how resources are distributed unevenly—even within the same school district—and how policy choices impact students of color and rural communities. His ability to explain complex budget dynamics in clear, actionable terms makes him a sought-after expert for media, and policymakers.

He has a Ph.D. in Educational Policy and an M.A. in Economics from the University of Southern California. He is the Director of two policy centers at the University of Washington; Fellow at the National Education Policy Center; Trustee of the National Education Finance Academy; and is a Former Director at the University of Texas at El Paso's Center for Education Research and Policy Studies.

Dr. Knight brings both deep expertise and timely insight on the future of education in Washington State. As funding debates continue at the local and state level, his voice is helping to shape the way we think about equity, opportunity, and how we invest in our children. Don't miss this important conversation.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – David Cobia, Connie Falon
Inspiration – Alex Ditto
Sergeant-at-Arms – Jedean Corpron
Program – Trevor Greene
Attendance – Margaret Filkins

FUTURE PROGRAMS

November 6th – Angelena Campobasso, Arts Washington Tribal
Cultural Affairs

November 13th – Command Sgt. Maj. Anton Ruffin, Veterans
Day Program

November 20th – Kip Ramsey, Ramsey Family & Yakama
Nation History

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS VS WASHINGTON COMMANDERS FOOTBALL BOARD

We're giving you another chance to grab a square this Thursday before the big game on November 2nd. Here's the play:

- \$10 = 1 square
- 50 squares are still available
- Bring cash or a credit card
- Half the pot goes to Rotary Charities
- The other half goes to the lucky winner!



Don't miss your shot to support a great cause and maybe score some winnings while cheering on our Seahawks! 💙💚



*Carolyn and President Elect John Cooper
at the Rotary Large Club Conference*

REVIEW

This week's play of the day was a quote from Benjamin Franklin, "an investment in knowledge pays the best interest." It was the perfect ending of a day where we recognized the 2025 Yakima Rotary Vocational Scholarship recipients. With a total amount of \$47,500 to give, our Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs Mamie Barboza and Celina Sanchez had the honor of presiding over the presentation. The represented fields of study were as varied as our students: Land Surveying, Civil Engineering, Nursing, Welding, Substance Use Disorder, Automotive Technology, Medical Office Administration and Coding, Information Technology, HVAC, Instrumentation & Robotic Technology, Construction Technology, Radiology, Business & Accounting Technology, and Diesel Equipment Technology. With their families and friends sharing in the joy and a special note gleamed from their application or interview, each of them came to the podium to receive their award.

Four students were chosen to share their own personal stories in more depth. We heard from a student who began college for the first time at the age of 45 and finding that he was not only capable of learning but was pretty good at it; good enough to make the Dean's List; a student and a mother of a 12 year old, seeing her Spanish speaking mother struggle communicating with healthcare providers and being inspired by her sister in choosing to study Radiology; a student growing up being involved in Rotary service projects and finding passion in helping others through nursing in emergency medicine with a goal of serving as a life flight nurse; and a student overcoming homelessness and addiction to pursue a degree in Substance Use Disorder with the goal to open an Oxford House in Yakima to help other men and fathers overcome addiction and raise their children in a safe supportive environment.

It was emotional and inspiring. Our gift of these scholarships is much more than financial - they are acts of kindness that build confidence and represent an investment in them as individuals, an investment in their families, and an investment in our community.

The meeting also included an inspirational message from Amy Maib, sergeant-at-arms by Steven Gustafson, and the introduction of our newest member, Patience Kirsten by Lisa Sargent. Patience is an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner and the President/CEO of Oasis Healogy Clinic. She was born in Nigeria where her passion for caring for others began early as a volunteer for the Nigerian Red Cross and Red Crescent. After relocating to the United States, she lived in Connecticut and Michigan, where she experienced her first snowy winter. She pursued her education at Norwich, Grand Rapids, and Montcalm Community Colleges; and Chamberlain University. During her Master's program she moved to Washington to complete her clinical mentorship. After graduation, she joined Astria Hospital as a Wound Care and Hyperbaric Specialist and served as a Family Practice Nurse Practitioner at Sunnyside Hospital, Rapid Care Toppenish, and Ahtanum Clinic. Seeing patients missing appointments due to transportation barriers often leading to worsening conditions inspired her to open her own wound care clinic in Yakima. She is also launching a nonprofit organization, WIHNF, to address the gap in short-term holistic wound care across the state.

She is married to Jeffrey Novack, a professor at PNWU. Outside her professional life, she enjoys line dancing, hiking, volunteering, attending church, has written two books, and is pursuing her Doctorate in Nursing Practice. We are so happy to have her as part of Rotary too!



2025 Vocational Scholarship Recipients