FOUNDATION NEWS

TRA

MEDICAL IMAGING
foundation

CELEBRATING SUCCESSES & SHARING STORIES



WELCOME AND UPDATES

Through our Education Fund, the TRA Medical Imaging Foundation serves to advance and promote careers in Imaging Sciences. The Education Fund provides financial support to individuals interested in developing their career in the field of Radiologic Technology or Medical Diagnostic Sonography through scholarships, mentorship, job shadowing, paid internships and residency opportunities. These awards are designed to assist students with life's needs, from housing, daycare, food, school books, scrubs, expenses including tuition assistance—all potential barriers to pursuing one's career goals. Becoming a medical imaging technologist affords individuals opportunities to work with cutting-edge technology, to help patients, and to contribute to improving the healthcare landscape while making a sustainable income with the chance to grow and advance.

It is a privilege to share our successes and update you on where we are today. The TRA Medical Imaging Foundation is steadfast in our commitment to "give back" by supporting and promoting advancements in healthcare and education for those with whom we share our beautiful region.

The Foundation also works to raise awareness of Imaging Sciences as a career choice. Community outreach efforts include informing students in secondary education of career opportunities in Imaging Sciences. Presentations began at Stadium High, Mt. Tahoma High and Lincoln High, with more to continue throughout Pierce County.

I hope you enjoy meeting our Scholars and learning more about our work. With your help and support we are able to have a significant impact. Thank you.

Dr. Douglas Seiler TRA Medical Imaging Foundation Board Chair

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Mission

To be an exemplary community partner in promoting better health and wellbeing now and for future generations.

Photo above: Mike Burgess, TRA Medical Imaging, CT Technologist presenting at Mt. Tahoma High School.

TRA MEDICAL IMAGING FOUNDATION AWARDS \$75,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2023

The TRA Medical Imaging Foundation is pleased to announce that it has accepted nine new Tacoma Community College students into the Foundation's Scholarship Program. In 2023, the Foundation expanded the Scholarship Program to include both first and second year students. Awards granted are up to \$10,000 for first-year students and up to \$5,000 for second-year students in the Radiological Sciences and Diagnostic Medical Sonography Programs.

The TRA Medical Imaging Foundation Scholars are selected through the work of the TRA Medical Imaging Foundation Scholarship Committee who award scholarships based on careful review of the student's applications, needs and career aspirations. The Scholarship Program is focused on helping students with financial constraints as well as mentoring students to reach their goals and dreams. This is done by connecting students with experienced technologists, radiologists, and other healthcare professionals that provide resources, ongoing support, guidance and accountability throughout the program. Additionally, post-graduation Scholars are encouraged to be active in the Alumni Association to help advance medical imaging as a profession through advocacy and raising awareness of the many career opportunities afforded to medical imaging professionals.

As the TRA Medical Imaging Foundation grows, it is our goal to expand more education and opportunities in CT, MRI, and Mammography, to create jobs, address the workforce shortage, and impact the quality of healthcare services in our community.

To find out more about the TRA Medical Imaging Foundation Scholarships, visit: https://www.tramedicalimagingfoundation.org/scholarships. Applications for 2024 will open in October.

TRA Medical Imaging Staff Makes an Impact

TRA's Employee Giving Campaign Opening Doors makes a difference for future generations. TRA appreciates all of the different ways that staff contribute to the "TRA Family" philanthropy. All donations make an impact in the community we live, work and play. Whether it's a one-time donation or through the payroll deduction program—it is completely optional and flexible with donations as low as \$1 a pay period. **Thank you!**



Amy Naegele
Betty White
Dillana Vashchenko
Galinna Roebuck
Heather Gilmore
Holli Morris
Jenerfer Okarski
Jennifer Yahne

Lisa McBroom
Lynn Causing
Mary Williams
Melodie Schacher
Michele Barfield
Rachael Costner
Roni Macias
Sandy Behm

MORE ABOUT THE IMAGING SCIENCES PROGRAMS AT TCC

About the Radiological Sciences Program:

This 2-year program leads to an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Radiologic Science, as well as a certificate of completion.

When students complete the program they are eligible to take the national certification examination through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). 97 percent of TCC graduates who sit for the ARRT (American Registry of Radiologic Technologists) pass on their first attempt. When students successfully pass this examination, they become certified as Registered Radiologic Technologists, RT(R) ARRT.

In 2021, TCC, MHS and TRA partnered in providing financial resources to expand the RT program from 20 to 40 students accepted annually.

About the Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Program: This 2-year program leads to an Associate of Applied Sciences degree with a specialization in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS). Training includes classroom and laboratory instruction, as well as clinical education in an affiliated ultrasound department. Successful graduates are eligible to take certifying exams of the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers in specialty areas of Abdomen and Obstetrics & Gynecology.

The program has a history of 100 percent of the DMS graduates passing their credentialing exam and starting full-time sonography jobs within 6 months following graduation.

CONGRATULATE GRADUATES CLASS OF 2022!



Traci at graduation, June 2022.

TRACI

Traci is a 2020 scholarship recipient of the TRA Medical Imaging Foundation Education Fund. She is a 2022 graduate of the Radiologic Technologist Program at TCC. She was inspired to pursue a career in radiology by a best friend who works as a radiologist technologist in California and was fascinated by her journey. Upon graduation and achieving her ARRT Certification, Traci was immediately hired on at local hospital and with additional per diem work at an imaging clinic to continue to gain as much experience as she can. Traci's interests also include advancing to other modalities such as CT and Mammography. She has set her goal to complete her bachelor's program and looking into management opportunities. Traci shares, "As part of the TRA Medical Imaging Foundation Alumni Association, I am looking forward to mentoring and sharing my own experiences and helping other students in their career journey."

"What I liked best about the mentorship was having that feeling of an underlying support system that I could reach out to at any time." ~Traci

TENISHA

Tenisha, a 2020 scholarship recipient of the TRA Medical Imaging Foundation Education Fund, graduated from the Radiologic Technologist Program in 2022. She shares, "I got a little later start. I had my GED and had three children at the time. I have an aptitude for math, am a math tutor, and I feel comfortable in the sciences. I was on the nursing path, but redirected to Radiologic Sciences by a teacher who, as a neuroengineer, recognized my strength in math. Radiologic Sciences is a better fit for me." Tenisha values mentorship, knowing that she has the opportunity to ask questions to a radiologist and a technologist. All of these resources play a role in evaluating options for her career in radiology. "I am extremely open to where each path leads me. I discovered you need to believe in yourself and have someone believe in you too. My four children are so proud of their mom!"

The photo below shows Tenisha on the left along with two of her daughters. Her oldest daughter graduated from high school the same year Tenisha graduated from the Radiological Technologist program.

"I am truly thankful for the continued support and belief in me."

~Tenisha



Tenisha shown with her daughters.

TRA MEDICAL IMAGING FOUNDATION EDUCATION FUND SCHOLARS

The TRA Medical Imaging Foundation Education Fund and Mentoring Program is a catalyst for career growth and sets a stage for employment. It provides the opportunity that can change lives of students and meet the future needs in this high-demand field.

In the coming decade the demand for medical imaging technologists is growing faster than the national average for all professions. As the population increases and ages, the need to diagnose medical conditions such as cancer, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, and other important procedures will require imaging as a tool for making diagnoses. Access and availability to life-saving imaging tests, screenings and diagnostics is, and will remain, critical to patient care and healthy communities.

Forecasts for employment of technologists and specialists in radiology imaging are projected to grow 7 percent through 2029, faster than the average for all occupations. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a large shortage of trained technologists to fill these roles—it is our commitment to take steps now to help fill the gap.

FIRST-YEAR SCHOLARS



ASIA

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program—Asia shares, "I have always wanted to be a part of the medical field. When my grandfather passed away, I realized how much I wanted to help others by providing quality care to patients and their families. I have always been a visual learner and enjoy paying close attention to detail, so I knew sonography was the right choice for me. I am excited to learn all things related to ultrasound and further my education in the field so that I can provide knowledge to the community in the future. I feel incredibly honored to be working with the TRA Medical Imaging Foundation and look forward to seeing where the world of sonography takes me."



BECKI

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program — Becki's short-term goal is to obtain her ARDMS certification in the specialty areas of Abdomen and Obstetrics & Gynecology. Healthcare is a second career for Becki. A former reporter for a local section of the Los Angeles Times, she chased down leads, scrutinized details, interviewed people, and communicated information to help people make knowledgeable choices. She began exploring healthcare careers after an emergency sonography-guided procedure saved her life. Becki sees a sonographer as an investigator who can identify potential barriers to patient well-being and provide valuable information to physicians. She shares, "I've witnessed people who learned about their healthcare options expressing a sense of power over their lives." Her long-term goal is to learn as much as possible and become a mentor to other sonographers or sonography students.



CONNER

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program—Conner has a passion for learning and a love for sound and health, which led him to pursue a career in ultrasound. Conner's background in choir and personal education in physical fitness helped guide his decision to pursue a career in healthcare. He knows the importance of perseverance, having experienced homelessness and living out of his car for six months at the age of 18, but eventually earning a college degree and gaining acceptance into the TCC program. Conner is determined to use his education and experience to help others and make a positive impact in the field.

FIRST-YEAR SCHOLARS



ERWIN

Radiologic Technologist Program — Erwin shares, "It has always been my passion to serve and help other people. Luckily, I was able to employ that passion when I became an assistant to a doctor when I was 17 years old. I was fortunate to help the underserved in the Philippines at a young age. I continued my passion when I migrated to the US and have worked in the medical field since 2012. Working in the hospital and witnessing the importance of radiographic science in the prompt diagnosis and management of patients led me to pursue a career in Radiologic Technology. I hope to encourage my siblings and other immigrants to pursue education and achieve successful careers in the medical field. Also, I have a passion for photography, so looking at radiographic images is not only informative but also fascinating. Along with my goal to obtain my ARRT certification, I hope to serve as a role model for my siblings and other immigrants to pursue education and achieve successful careers in the medical field."



FATIMA

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program—Fatima received a Bachelor's degree in 2021 from Portland State University. Growing up she always wanted a career in the healthcare field, and when she came across sonography, she knew it was the one for her. She enjoys the idea of sonographers working as a detective, using ultrasound machines to detect disease or anything that's causing patients pain and discomfort in their body. After shadowing many different sonographers in various settings, she fell in love with sonography even more and decided to pursue a career in this field. Her long-term goal is to continue learning about the field of sonography and teach younger girls in her community to pursue this career. She also wants to advance and one day maybe teach sonography.



RENA

Radiologic Technologist Program — Rena shares "Being on my hands and knees scooping rotten fish off the deck of an Alaskan fishing boat was the moment I knew I wanted more out of a career. Finding out I was going to become a mother and be my child's role model was the moment I knew I wanted to work in the medical field. Working at a radiology office and seeing the impact diagnostic imaging can make in saving someone's life, was the moment I knew I wanted to be a Radiologic Technologist." Rena's goal is to graduate in 2024 and is determined to set an example of hard work and dedication to her 10-year-old son. After graduation, Rena plans to gain as much experience as possible by working at both a hospital and a clinic. She is passionate about helping others and believes that diagnostic imaging is an incredible way to provide patient care. She is eager to learn and grow in the field and is excited to see where her career in radiologic science takes her.



STEPHEN

Radiologic Technologist Program—Stephen shares, "I am thrilled to be pursuing a career that is both fulfilling and exciting. I strive to help others wherever and however I can. This was one of the many things that drew me to radiology. The fact that there are many branching paths that one can take to learn and grow excites me! While I have never been the most book smart, I make up for that in tenacity and determination. I have worked in the healthcare field as a CNA for the past nine years and am passionate about serving others with compassion and dedication to the needs of the whole patient. I am honored to be part of the scholarship program and equally the mentorship aspect." As a father of two daughters, his family is his main drive in his pursuit of a growing career. As a graduate of the class of 2024, he is looking forward to his career in imaging and serving our community with the greatest skill and knowledge he can bring to the healthcare system.

SECOND-YEAR SCHOLARS

Second year students are immersed in full-time clinical rotations to gain experience working in a variety of settings. Healthcare providers in Pierce, Kitsap, Lewis and Thurston counties partner with TCC to afford students excellent clinical opportunities to practice their skills and develop a solid understanding of the life as an imaging technologist. Scholars work within their respective fields in clinical settings with the opportunity to be introduced to multiple modalities. From the emergency room to the operating room, to outpatient clinics, students gain patient experience and knowledge to succeed in the field. These second-year Scholars are planning to graduate in June, sit for the certification exam in the fall of 2023, and ultimately be working full-time as professional imaging technologists.



ADRIANNE

Radiologic Technologist Program—Adrianne's short-term goals consist of graduating with an associate degree in Radiologic Science and becoming certified and registered with the ARRT. She plans to continue her heath care career journey and gain certification in computed tomography or magnetic resonance imaging. Adrianne aspires to be a respected team leader who radiologists, patients, and healthcare workers can depend on. She shares, "Getting accepted into the Radiologic Science Program at TCC was a huge blessing that brings me joy and one step closer to a career goal that I set over 15 years ago. I am a first-generation college student and intend to demonstrate to my family the importance of continued education not only by obtaining a purposeful career but by becoming a lifelong learner."



CATHY

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program—Cathy wants to play a vital role in helping people achieve better health. She thrives on the problem-solving process and investigative nature of imaging. "I will be able to investigate and apply critical thinking skills to help solve the patient's problems, which I love doing". Cathy is also interested in neuromuscular ultrasound imaging. In the long term, she would like to continue her education for higher degrees, as well as contribute to the field through new technologies and techniques. Her ambition is to lead by example and inspire her own four children to create their best lives while helping others.



CYHIA

Radiologic Technologist Program—Cyhia went back to school at the age of 40 with the goal of graduating with a degree before she turns 45. She wants to show her 4 children that you can achieve anything you work hard for at any age and stage of life. Cyhia shares, "It is never too late to accomplish your goals." With her experience working as a Certified Medical Assistant, she wanted to explore more in the healthcare field. A friend who has been a CT technologist for about 25 years suggested radiology. "I feel like this career change is opening many doors I did not know existed and I am excited about what the future holds. I plan to explore other modalities to include CT, Mammography, and Interventional Radiology. I am looking forward to playing a vital role in assisting with patient care, saving lives and especially looking forward to graduating as part of the Class of 2023.



HANNAH

Radiologic Technologist Program — Hannah's work experience started at the age of 16 as a veterinary assistant. She took a hiatus to join the Army, then returned to radiology working at Summit Veterinary Hospital as a technician. This is where she realized she wanted to become an X-ray technologist for people. After graduating, she plans to obtain advanced certifications in CT and MR. She is looking forward to job shadowing opportunities and observing both the hospital and outpatient clinic sites. Hannah loves the creativity involved in taking the best diagnostic images possible. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her cat, Peter, who has been by her side for three years.

SECOND-YEAR SCHOLARS



JOSE

Radiologic Technologist Program—At a young age, Jose's personal experience with his father's journey of tests and diagnostics helping to uncover cancer through a sonogram was the moment he realized how amazing this technology was and wanted a job related to patient care. Jose's focus was to carve a path to work in a radiologic department where he can integrate his advocacy for caring and be able to work as an integral technologist. Jose shares that his culturally diverse background (speaks Spanish and Cantonese) may help others with language barriers adding to compassionate patient care. Jose and his wife are raising a young toddler and he is excited to be in the program and eager to be working in the field soon.



KRISTIN

Radiologic Technologist Program – Kristin shares that she has always wanted to be in the medical field and help people. As a child, her mother was often sick and encouraged her to go into healthcare. Kristin also has a special interest in iMRI and FMRI—a technique for measuring and mapping the brain and intends to research the different modalities and associated opportunities. She shares, "I am very interested in the mentorship program to help guide me in this process. Combined with the TCC RT program, clinicals and the support from TRA radiologists and technologists, it is more than I could have ever imagined." Kristin is raising her young daughter while going to school, clinicals and commmitment to the mentorship program.



MICHAEL

Radiologic Technologist Program — Michael received his Bachelor's degree in 2019 from Linfield College in Oregon. During the next two years he did an extensive internship in a radiology department at Willamette Valley Medical Center, thus turning his interest into a passion. Additionally, he took a job to get more clinical experience in healthcare at a physical therapy clinic. In 2021, he was accepted into the TCC program. Fuller shares, "I strongly believe that working as an X-ray technologist is my dream job. It is something that I will be excited to get up and go to work every day giving me the opportunity to make a positive impact on patients and coworkers. It is a field that has career advancement opportunities that I am also interested in such as CT, MRI, and Angiography." Both Michael and his wife are in the healthcare career paths.



NIA

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program—After 20 plus years as a massage therapist, Nia decided to pursue a career as a Sonographer. Nia shares "I have a love for anatomy, the human body and helping people. I believe it is very important for the patient who is receiving the ultrasound to be as comfortable as possible. With my experience for the last 20 years, I can bring my expertise and help to create the best possible experience for each patient." Nia is from Washington and is deeply invested in her community through her work and family. Nia looks forward to taking advantage of every opportunity the mentoring program provides, and hope to mentor others in the near future.



REBECCA

Radiologic Technologist Program — Rebecca is a single mother of 4 and is in the latter half of achieving her goals of a new career in radiology. Being accepted into the radiology program 2 weeks later than everyone else has been the continued driving force in motivating her to excel in this path. She has a deep desire to prove why she was given this opportunity. Rebecca takes great pride in helping everyone around her, whether that be fellow students, teachers, patients, or coworkers. She strives to be continuously dependable. When she completes the Radiologic Science program, she plans to continue to a higher modality such as MR.

For scholar updates and more check out the blog at www.tramedicalimagingfoundation.org

FOUNDATION LAUNCHES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Background and Purpose

Upon graduation, TRA Medical Imaging Foundation Scholars are encouraged, but not required, to participate in the TRA Medical Imaging Foundation Alumni Scholars Association. The TRA Medical Imaging Foundation Alumni Association is a volunteer network based in Tacoma, Washington, that serves to advance medical imaging as a profession and provide Aumni Scholars the opportunity to "give back" through mentorship, educating youth, and sharing of experiences. It is composed of alumni, regardless of location, and may be international if the alumni have followed their careers abroad. It makes no distinction of type of work or advanced education — all Scholars graduating from the TRA Medical Imaging Scholarship and Mentoring program are considered part of this alumni network.

The purpose of the TRA Medical Imaging Foundation Alumni Association is for Alumni Scholars to:

- Stay connected, network and assist the Foundation in advancing its mission.
- Advance medical imaging as a profession through advocacy and raising awareness of the many career opportunities afforded to medical imaging professionals.

Activities of involvement may include: online meetings with current Scholars and the TRA Medical Imaging Foundation mentoring committee; presentations to community and schools, and; the option to participate in the annual scholarship review process assisting in the review and selection of future Scholars.

Benefits of participation in the Alumni Association include, but may not be limited to:

- **Networking Opportunities:** Source of enrichment for the Scholar's professional network as well as supporting a network of graduates who raise the profile of the profession and inspire others.
- Career Building: Continue toward enhancement of the profession, discuss developments in the sector and share advice and best practices.
- **Giving Back:** Help advance the mission of the TRA Medical Imaging Foundation to inform, engage and inspire future medical imaging technologists.

The TRA Medical Imaging Foundation Alumni Association appoints a Leader annually who works closely with the Foundation leadership to coordinate Alumni communications and activities.

Alumni Association Purpose & Opportunity

Connections

Advancement

Networking Opportunties

Career Building

Giving Back

FEATURED TECHNOLOGIST MENTOR



Melinda and her grandson.

Melinda Martinez Lead Ultrasound Technologist

29 years ago, Melinda was taking her prerequisite courses to get into the nursing program at TCC. The program had a long waiting list, so she decided to start looking into other options. Melinda came across information about Imaging Sciences, and decided to apply. This started her career into X-ray (Radiologic Technologist/RT) and Ultrasound (Diagnostic Medical Sonography/DMS).

She worked 11 years doing X-ray and interventional radiology, and then went back to school for sonography. Her career in sonography now spans 20 years. Melinda is a modality lead for five of TRA Medical Imaging clinics. She also continues to work as a staff sonographer. Melinda works closely with the radiologists, sonographers, schedulers, and office managers to provider quality exams to patients.

Melinda shares, "What I like most about my job, is being able to do a variety of different types of exams to support the needs of the patients and providers. I take pride in knowing that I am skilled in my line of work to assist when techs, students, providers, radiologists, or any of my coworkers that have questions or just would like my opinion about something. I like being able to help whenever I can."

Melinda adds, "To be able to assist in the mentorship program, I feel honored to share my experiences, and hope that I can help our Scholars to become great technologists in the near future."

Never limit
yourself in the
ability to learn
new skills, don't
be afraid to try
things you have
never done or
seen before, it
will only make
you a better
technologist in
the end." ??

Melinda Martinez



Gensuke Akaike, M.D. TRA Medical Imaging Radiologist

Dr. Akaike is a TRA Medical Imaging Board Certified, Cardiothoracic and Cardiovascular Imaging Radiologist. He volunteers his time to be on the Mentorship Committee and meets with first- and second-year RT and DMS Scholars. The group meetings are designed for the Scholars to have access to a radiologist and ask questions about their studies, clinical experiences, imaging procedures and other concerns they may have. Dr. Akaike brings an additional layer of under-

standing with his cultural and educational background from Japan. He went to medical school at Hamamatsu University School of Medicine, Shizuoka, Japan with an internship St. Luke's International Hospital, Tokyo, Japan. This was followed by his Residency and Fellowship at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle, WA. Dr. Akaike shares that he is excited to be on the mentorship team and looking forward to see the growth of the Scholars as they move through the program.

A GIVING COMMUNITY ~ THANK YOU!

The TRA Medical Imaging Board of Directors thanks all donors who have shared their support your generosity helps to further our mission and grow the TRA Medical Imaging Education Fund.

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Interested in learning more?

We are happy to meet with you to discuss opportunities and share the vision of the Foundation. If you are interested in directly supporting the Education Fund, visit www.tramedicalimagingfoundation.org for more information.

> If you'd like to chat, call 253-761-4200 x 8613 or email foundation@tranow.com.