



**Greater Gig Harbor Foundation**  
*Building, Bridging, and Enriching Our Community Since 2006*  
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## **Students of Distinction Program Decides on New Platform for 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Event**

**Pandemic has forced community program to shift platform for first time in 18 years**

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Like most events and our everyday norm, the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Students of Distinction (SOD) Program has looked a little bit different this year. From having program committee meetings online, to planning Zoom panelist interviews, the SOD Event Committee has been forced to adapt for this year's program.

Over the years, the program's grand finale has taken place in mid-May in the form of a banquet that celebrates and honors students for their hard work, dedication, and strength in overcoming large hurdles. While we are still trying to carry out the program as normally as possible, there are major discussions that the Greater Gig Harbor Foundation's (GGHF) Board of Directors and the SOD Event Committee have had to face, including whether or not to hold the event in person.

The Students of Distinction banquet is usually 200+ people; given the current social distancing orders, statewide and nationally, the GGHF Board of Directors and SOD Event Committee have made the difficult decision to move the annual event to a different platform for the Class of 2020. Instead of the event taking place at Ocean5 on May 27<sup>th</sup>, we are working hard to prepare a presentation, with the help of our sponsors, that honors students and their achievements. This presentation will be sent to students, sponsors and made available to the community. Students profiles will continue to be highlighted in the Gateway (both print and online) and students will still receive medals. This was a difficult decision, however due to the circumstances beyond our control we have been forced to shift gears.

We want to sincerely thank our students and their families for their understanding, our sponsors for their immense support and partnership, our panelists for their time and patience as we navigated the Zoom platform to conduct panelist interviews on April 25<sup>th</sup> and our community for their understanding on this tough decision.

In the current environment we want to ensure not only our honored SOD students feel celebrated, but that the entire Class of 2020 knows we are applauding them as they navigate this uncharted territory.

**Congratulations Class of 2020!**

Stay updated on the program by following us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/studentsofdistinction/](https://www.facebook.com/studentsofdistinction/)) and checking out our website ([gghf.info/SOD](http://gghf.info/SOD))!