



Scholarship Program Gets Portion of Obama Nobel Prize Money

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President Obama is donating his Nobel Peace Prize money to several charities. Among them is The Posse Foundation, a national organization that grants full scholarships to public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential.

The foundation's Washington office is full of success stories.

"I was running -- jumping around the house [be]cause I knew when I got that call that it was going to be a huge change in my life and one step closer to what I want to do in the future," said Demi McCoy, a scholarship recipient.

The Posse Foundation looks at the big picture, using an alternative set of qualities beyond SAT and GPA scores as predictors of success in college.

Each student's four-year scholarship is valued at \$140,000.

Right now, the students are undergoing rigorous college preparation training for leadership roles and high-level academic expectations on campus.

Once at college, mentors and campus liaisons are with them every step of the way to ensure their success. There is even job placement assistance and career mentoring after graduation.

"One of the biggest benefits is the support system that I am going to get from the nine other students -- nine other peers who are going to be with me to help me when I need help," McCoy said.

In addition to being an all-star athlete, McCoy is a member of the Prince George's Regional Association of Student Government. She's a math tutor to her peers, as well as president of the National Honor Society and National Art Honor Society.

And in the fall, she's off to Pepperdine University where she plans to double major.

"You build trust, build confidence and you build a support group before you go to college," explained Lafayette alumnus Mauricio Levya.

These students say the organization is life changing.

So far, The Posse Foundation has helped more than 3,100 students and given out nearly \$300 million in scholarships. The program boasts a 90 percent college graduation rate.