

Posse Boston Celebrates 61 New Scholars

Governor Deval Patrick and First Lady Diane Patrick Make Surprise Appearance

On January 6, 2011, Posse Boston and its six college and university partners celebrated the newest class of Posse Scholars—61 outstanding high school seniors who earned four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarships worth over \$8 million. More than 450 members of the Posse Boston community, including special guests Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and First Lady Diane Patrick, gathered for the Annual Posse Boston Awards Ceremony to honor and celebrate these new Scholars and their extraordinary accomplishments.

The Awards Ceremony fell on the night of Deval Patrick’s inauguration for a second term as governor. So he and Diane, a member of The Posse Foundation Board of Directors, thrilled the audience when they made a surprise appearance between inaugural events. They were greeted with a standing ovation. “It is so important for me to be here with all of these wonderful Scholars who have worked so hard and received exactly what they have earned,

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Massachusetts First Lady Diane Patrick, a member of The Posse Foundation Board of Directors, and Governor Deval Patrick.



Posse Boston’s Class of 2011 Scholars.

PHOTOS BY KULBAKPHOTO.COM

Ceremony Highlights Putnam’s Investment in Local Youth

As the lead sponsor of the 2011 Posse Boston Awards Ceremony, Putnam Investments continued to demonstrate its powerful commitment to Boston and its future leaders, Posse Scholars.

Putnam has been the lead sponsor of this major local event for four years, providing generous support to The Posse Foundation and recognition to the outstanding high school seniors selected annually to be Boston Scholars.

“Like The Posse Foundation, Putnam is committed to the success of local communities and their young people,” says Robert Reynolds, president and CEO

of Putnam Investments. “We invest in Posse and its Scholars because we know the return will be diverse young leaders ready to succeed in a global economy and to make critical contributions to our city, state and nation.”

Putnam is a true partner in Posse’s efforts, providing needed funding, hosting Posse events and offering summer internships to Scholars. The Posse Foundation wishes to express its deep gratitude to the Putnam team for their support of the Posse Program and their dedication to the college and career success of our Scholars and Alumni. ✨



Putnam Chief of Operations Steven Krichmar congratulates the new Scholars.

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which are these four-year scholarships from our wonderful college and university partners,” said Diane. Governor Patrick spoke to the new Scholars about the leadership roles that they will play in the future of Boston, the state and the nation. “I share Diane’s pride in all of the Scholars, in what you are, in what you are becoming and what you will contribute,” he said.

In addition to Deval and Diane Patrick, Posse Boston welcomed guest speakers Dr. Carol R. Johnson, superintendent of the Boston Public Schools, and Steven Krichmar, chief of operations for Putnam Investments, the lead sponsor of the Awards Ceremony.

Representatives from Posse Boston’s

partner colleges, event sponsors and nominating high schools and community-based organizations were in attendance as were Posse board members, Posse Alumni and the new Scholars’ families and friends.

The 61 new Scholars were selected from a pool of more than 1,300 nominees. From September through December, nominated students participated in the Dynamic Assessment Process (DAP), Posse’s unique recruitment process that gives nominees opportunities to demonstrate skills and qualities not captured by traditional college admission processes. Posse Boston Scholars comprise six Posses selected by Bryn Mawr College, Bucknell University, Centre College, Denison University, Hamilton College and Union College.

Over the last 12 years, Posse Boston has recruited over 500 of this community’s

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most talented young people to become Posse Scholars. These students have earned more than \$56 million in merit scholarships to some of the nation’s top colleges and universities and are now part of a network of diverse young leaders unlike anything the country has ever seen.✱



Kidus Moges, Bucknell Posse 5 (right), with his father, Girma Feleke.



Members of Hamilton College Posse 11.



(from left) Menda François, Bryn Mawr Posse 5 Alumna; Chon'tel Washington, Hamilton Posse 4 Alumna; Catherine Chiu, Boston Public Schools’ director of guidance.



Members of Denison University Posse 7.



Christina Dubique, a member of Centre College Posse 6.



Members of Bryn Mawr College Posse 11.



Members of Union Posse 6 gather as a team for the first time to celebrate winning The Posse Scholarship.

Over 450 guests gathered to celebrate and honor this year's Posse Scholars and their incredible achievements.



The success of our program and the youth we serve would not be possible without the generous support of Posse's funders. We wish to express our gratitude to our 2011 Posse Boston Awards Ceremony sponsors:

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Denison Scholar Inspires Posse Community

At the 2011 Posse Boston Awards Ceremony VIP reception, Ana Victoria Morales, Denison Posse 6, and her mother, Jacquelin Colon, spoke eloquently and powerfully about winning the Posse Scholarship and the impact that this opportunity has had on Ana, her family and her community.

In late 2009, Ana competed with over 1,300 local high school seniors to become a Posse Boston Scholar. She was awarded a four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarship from Denison University. "Becoming a Posse Scholar was a dream come true for me and my family, and we are very grateful for this opportunity," said Ana.

Now a first-year student at Denison, Ana is involved in a number of extracurricular activities including Denison's Open House for religious and spiritual life. In high school, Ana was



Ana Victoria Morales, Denison Posse 6, (right) and her mother, Jacquelin Colon.

a dancer and continues to pursue this passion at Denison. She is excelling in all of her courses and has also discovered a passion for political science, which she plans to pursue as her major. All of her hard work is bringing Ana closer

to fulfilling her dream—to return to her hometown of Lawrence, Massachusetts, and become mayor.

She attributed her success to her support system, including her nine Posse mates. "When I got to campus, I realized that those nine other people in your Posse matter a lot," Ana said. "The beginning of the year was hard, but I always knew I had my Posse with me."

A leader on campus, Ana is also a role model in her home community. "When I graduated from high school, people in my community thought I was going to just settle down because that's what you're supposed to do," she said. "Now that they see me going to college, they know that there are other options, that you can further your education."

Ana is setting an example for other young men and women and is an inspiration to Posse. ✨

Institutions Make Multiyear Commitments

Posse Boston is incredibly grateful for the critical support it has received over the last year from so many generous individuals, companies and foundations, including tremendous multiyear investments from the Boston Foundation; the Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee; and a funder that wishes to remain anonymous.

THIS GIFT SERVES AS A VALIDATION OF THE TREMENDOUS WORK THAT THE POSSE ORGANIZATION HAS DONE

In late 2009, the Boston Foundation, one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the nation, committed \$375,000 to The Posse Foundation over three years.

In late 2010, the Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation awarded Posse a second multiyear grant of \$100,000 a year for

three years. The Balfour Foundation's first multiyear award to Posse, made in 2007, had a direct and powerful impact on the Boston chapter's growth and success.

"Posse is not just providing urban youth with access to the best in higher education; the organization is successfully tackling challenges around college retention and workforce diversity," states Miki Akimoto, senior foundation officer of the Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee. "The Balfour Foundation is proud to support Posse's efforts to ensure the academic and career success of so many talented local youth."

In January, an anonymous supporter made an incredible commitment of \$500,000 over three years to support the Boston program and the youth we serve. "This gift serves as a validation of the tremendous work that the Posse organization has done as measured by its success in graduating Scholars at a rate of 90 percent and expanding partnerships

with elite universities across the country," says a representative of the anonymous supporter. "It is given with deep hope and expectation that the gift will help Posse Boston build on its past success and continue doing incredible work in the future. It is also in recognition of Posse Boston Advisory Board Chair Paul Selian and his outstanding efforts to expand the profile of the organization in the city of Boston and in particular among the business community."

In 2011, Posse began its 12th year serving Boston-area youth. The success of our program over the years is thanks to the commitment of our top-tier college and university partners and the support of Posse's donors—those individuals and institutions whose funding makes our program possible. We look forward to many more years working with local young people, with the continued support of our generous funders.✱

Posse Boston relies on the support of individuals, corporations and foundations—their funding makes our program possible. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to Posse, please contact Barrie Tysko at barriet@possefoundation.org or at (617) 523-4478 or donate online at www.possefoundation.org.

boston advisory board

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