

Posse Chicago Celebrates 85 New Scholars



The 85 newest Posse Chicago Scholars are student leaders nominated by Chicago public high schools and community-based organizations.

On December 15, 2010, Posse Chicago officially welcomed 85 new Scholars into the Posse Program.

Close to 500 guests, including family, friends, teachers, counselors, current Posse Scholars and Alumni, as well as Posse supporters and board members, gathered at the Awards Ceremony event at The Harris Theater in Millennium Park.

This year's Scholars were selected from over 2,300 nominated student leaders from Chicago public high schools and community-based organizations.

As a result of their leadership, commitment to academics and personal

event highlight

Posse Chicago Awards Ceremony

motivation, they are now on a path to attend and ultimately graduate from some of the top colleges and universities in the nation, having won over \$12 million in four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarships.

Representatives from Carleton College, Connecticut College, Denison University, DePauw University, Oberlin College, Trinity College, Pomona College and the University of Wisconsin-Madison greeted their newest Possees and encouraged the

Scholars to take advantage of all that college has to offer while contributing to the campus community.

"To whom much is given, much is asked," said Trinity College Senior Associate Dean of Admissions Reggie E. Kennedy as he addressed the Trinity Posse 3 Scholars.

To date, 700 dynamic young student leaders from Chicago have been selected to become Posse Scholars. They are persisting and graduating from college at a rate of 90 percent, nearly double the national average. ✨

Deloitte Selects Posse as Future Fund Recipient

Posse Chicago was recently selected as one of Deloitte's Future Fund recipients. The Future Fund is part of "Their Future is Our Future," Deloitte's national initiative to implement a comprehensive plan for improving college enrollment and success rates in local communities.

Through this program, Deloitte sponsored the Posse Chicago Awards Ceremony and will be working closely with

Posse to provide support to Scholars and Alumni, including a collaboration with Posse's Career Program.

"We are excited to have Deloitte as a supporter of our work," says Dominique Jordan-Turner, director of Posse Chicago. "Their investment will greatly assist our Scholars as they transition from being leaders on campus to becoming leaders in the workforce."

Several Posse Alumni have already begun careers in consulting, including DePauw Posse 3 (Chicago) Alumnus Jeyson Florez, who joined Deloitte in Washington, D.C. this past summer. ✨

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Deloitte.

Oberlin Posse Scholar Wins Mellon Mays Fellowship

Oberlin Posse 3 Scholar Devin Davis has been awarded the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, a paid research fellowship designed to increase the number of students of color pursuing PhDs. Devin recently declared his major and area of focus as geology, a field that hadn't even occurred to him before freshman year.

scholar highlight

Devin Davis
Oberlin Posse 3

"I've always been into science courses, but I had never taken a geology course before I came to Oberlin," he says.

After taking an introductory course with Professor Bruce Simonson, Devin was hooked. He also plans to double major in environmental science, an interest he's had since serving as president of the environmental science club at Senn High School over four years ago.

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE ... THEY BELIEVE IN ME SO I BELIEVE IN MYSELF

As part of his fellowship, Devin will participate in two research projects, the first of which will involve capturing and analyzing ground water at the George Jones Farm and Nature Preserve, a 70-acre farmstead owned by Oberlin College.

Although he has not yet determined



(from left) Oberlin Posse 3 Scholar Devin Davis and Posse President and Founder Deborah Bial.

his second project, Devin is leaning toward investigating meteorites—a specialty of Professor Simonson's and one that could potentially lead him to study abroad in South Africa or Australia.

Posse has had a major influence on Devin's Oberlin experience. When he was first considering applying for the Mellon Mays Fellowship, he reached out to Oberlin Posse 1 Scholar Amber Walker for guidance, since she had been selected as an

Oberlin College Research Fellow—a similar undergraduate research fellowship.

Devin's Posse has also helped him stay focused on his coursework and navigate the challenges of being away from home.

"What I've learned from being a Posse Scholar is that there is a reason why I got the scholarship," says Devin. "There are people who believe I can make a difference at Oberlin and later on in life. They believe in me so I believe in myself." ✨

Posse Chicago Key Calendar Dates 2011



Thursday, August 4
Internship Celebration
Museum of Contemporary Art



Monday, September 12
Golf Outing & Jazz Cocktail Reception
Skokie Country Club

www.possefoundation.org/chicagogolf



Wednesday, October 26
Power of 10 Event
Chicago Cultural Center

www.possefoundation.org/chicagopowerof10

Pomona Posse Alumna Pursues Fulbright in Vietnam

Pomona Posse 2 Alumna Patricia Nguyen is on a mission to change the world one community at a time. She is currently in Vietnam on a Fulbright Fellowship teaching English to over 70 students at a community college in the Mekong Delta. A majority of the students she teaches come from rural areas and are the first in their families to go to college.

alumna highlight

Patricia Nguyen
Pomona Posse 2

“I love teaching, and I love my students,” says Patricia. “We discuss gender issues, climate change, the environment and sustainable development.”

Although her students face many challenges including political censorship, limited resources at the college (their library has just a few bookshelves), and a staff of young, inexperienced teachers, Patricia is determined to empower her students.

ART IS A GOOD WAY TO EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE TO REFLECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND THEM

One of her recent contributions was co-organizing a professional development workshop for teachers focused on critical and creative thinking methodologies.

In addition to teaching, Patricia volunteers with ADAPT Vietnam, a nonprofit anti-human trafficking organization. ADAPT’s two core programs are prevention and reintegration, which supports girls who are returning to their communities.

At ADAPT, Patricia teaches English to young women between the ages of 18 and 23. A number of her students are school dropouts, some from as early as the sixth grade. In order to address the various needs of her students, Patricia has created her own curriculum, which incorporates arts education.

“Art is a good way to empower young people to reflect on the environment around them,” Patricia says.

Among the girls she works with, she promotes the importance of building community, a model she is very passionate about, especially after her experience being



Pomona Posse 2 Alumna Patricia Nguyen (center, kneeling) on the streets of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, with the young girls she works with at ADAPT, an anti-trafficking program.

a Posse Scholar.

“A lot of where I pulled my strength from in college were the women in my Posse,” says Patricia. “We all needed each other’s support.”

Being in Vietnam has also been sort of a homecoming for Patricia whose parents were refugees when they arrived in the United States over 20 years ago. She still has family in Vietnam and has been traveling around the country to meet them.

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“My roots have been unfolding before my eyes,” she says.

Patricia plans to stay another year in Vietnam after her Fulbright experience. She is also interested in traveling to other countries. Last November, she participated in the Global Seminar-Workshop on Indigenous Women, Climate Change and

POSSE ALUMNI FULBRIGHT FELLOWS

In the past four years, 20 Posse Alumni have won Fulbright Fellowships, including four Posse Chicago Alumni:

- Jeyson Florez, DePauw Posse 3
- Patricia Nguyen, Pomona Posse 2
- Sharunda Owens, Wisconsin Posse 3
- Gladys Reyes, Pomona Posse 1

REDD+ in the Philippines, where she met many inspirational women from a variety of communities across the globe.

As someone deeply concerned about sustainable development and the impact of the rise of globalization on communities, Patricia believes education, and more specifically arts-based education, is the key to a better future for all.

“The work that I want to do is always about empowerment,” she says. ✨

Federal Judge Joins Posse Chicago Advisory Board

Amy J. St. Eve, a federal judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, recently joined Posse Chicago's advisory board.

board member highlight

Hon. Amy J. St. Eve
Chicago Advisory Board

A graduate of Cornell Law School, Amy is one of the youngest judges ever to join the U.S. federal court system. Since her appointment in 2002 by President George W. Bush, she has presided over a number of high profile cases including those of Conrad Black and Tony Rezko.

Now, Amy is bringing her passion for justice and educational opportunities to Posse Chicago. Last summer, she opened her courtroom for a job shadow day to Posse Scholars interested in law and justice careers.

Scholars witnessed a hearing, and afterward met with Amy as well as an FBI agent who spoke with them about



Hon. Amy J. St. Eve, District Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

career opportunities.

Amy is thrilled to be a part of Posse and is eager to help Scholars take advantage of the amazing opportunities in front of

them. She plans to encourage Scholars to be open to new ideas and to pursue their ambitions.

LAST SUMMER AMY OPENED HER COURTROOM TO POSSE SCHOLARS INTERESTED IN LAW AND JUSTICE CAREERS.

"I wouldn't be here today if I hadn't tried for something I really wanted," says Amy.

After being introduced to Posse at an event where she met DePauw Posse 3 (Chicago) Alumnus Dallas Madlock, she knew that she had found an admirable organization to which she could add value.

"Posse's 90 percent college graduation rate speaks volumes about the success of the program and the concept behind it," says Amy. "I've been very impressed with the difference Posse has made in Scholars' lives." *

chicago advisory board

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posse chicago

Dominique Jordan-Turner, Director
111 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1900
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: (312) 566-9790
Fax: (312) 566-9796
chicago@possefoundation.org

national office

14 Wall Street, Suite 8A-60
New York, NY 10005
Phone: (212) 405-1691
Fax: (212) 405-1697
info@possefoundation.org

visit posse on the web at:
www.possefoundation.org