

# Awards Ceremony Honors 32 New Miami Scholars

On January 5, Posse Miami celebrated its second annual Awards Ceremony at the J.W. Marriott Hotel Miami. The event honored our newest cohorts of distinguished young leaders, who won the Posse Scholarship. This year, 32 Scholars received nearly \$5 million in scholarships and leadership awards from Hamilton College, Mount Holyoke College and the University of Pennsylvania.

The proud families, nominators, community leaders and college partners in attendance commemorated the induction of the newly selected Scholars into the Posse family. The ceremony marked the beginning of their Pre-Collegiate Training, which, through weekly workshops, addresses team building, cross-cultural communication, leadership and becoming an active agent of change on campus and academic excellence.\*



Posse Miami Scholars take center stage as their scholarships are recognized at the 2011 Awards Ceremony.

*Special thanks to our Awards Ceremony sponsors*



## *Knight Foundation Supports Posse Miami Leaders*



Hamilton Posse 1 Scholar Amie Rodriguez, a digital media intern, is one of the many Scholars to benefit from The Knight Foundation's support of Posse. Watch Amie's video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqv8kSO3Td8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqv8kSO3Td8).

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation is helping to increase Miami-Dade public school students' access and exposure to college, with \$150,000 in support to Posse Miami.

The grant helps to ensure that a greater number of Miami-Dade high school students from diverse backgrounds will gain leadership skills and access to top-tier colleges and universities.

"Our next generation of leaders should reflect the diversity of our communities," says Dennis Scholl, Miami program director for Knight Foundation. "Nowhere is that more important than in Miami-Dade County."

Knight focuses on projects that promote informed and engaged communities and lead to transformational change.

Since opening in 2009, Posse Miami has recruited and trained 64 students who

have won nearly \$10 million in leadership scholarships from Posse's top-tier partner colleges and universities.

"Within three weeks of our opening in Miami, we received 800 applications to the Posse Program," says Posse Miami Director Larissa Ramos. "As we entered our second year, members of our community nominated over 900 students. This unprecedented response clearly shows that there is a real need for Posse in South Florida and that without Posse, hundreds of students would have been overlooked. We are so grateful for Knight Foundation's support and are confident that this is just the beginning of our growing partnership."

For more information about the Knight Foundation, visit [www.knightfoundation.org](http://www.knightfoundation.org). \*

# Penn Scholar Begins Legacy of Campus Leadership

Penn Posse 1 Scholar Nicole Cone's candid, dynamic and vivacious personality is always apparent. She is socially conscious and actively invested in issues that matter to her.

## scholar highlight

Nicole Cone  
University of Pennsylvania Posse 1

As a junior in high school, Nicole founded Raise Your Voice, a youth group that uses creative endeavors to inspire members to raise awareness in their communities about contemporary issues that matter to them.

### I'M JUST GRATEFUL THAT POSSE MIAMI STARTED IN MY SENIOR YEAR SO THAT I COULD HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY

This passion for youth development also showed up in Nicole's involvement with Project Poise, an organization created in tandem with the local Miami Boys & Girls Club, whose mission is to help young women battle low self-esteem and become empowered leaders.

Fusing her passion for female empowerment and the arts, Nicole has become a presence within the performing arts community at Penn. She was cast in a production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" and took interest in working as a sound technician for the African American Arts Alliance and shortly thereafter, becoming secretary of the club. She now works as a box office clerk at the Annenberg Center for Performing Arts.

Another unique accomplishment of



University of Pennsylvania Posse 1 Scholar Nicole Cone.

Nicole's is the T-shirt business that she launched as a high school junior called "Color Outside the Lines." After buying a silk screening machine online, she began making T-shirts that take common phrases and cross out the negativity in them, turning them into inspirational messages.

In her first year, Nicole has been tutoring local students and serving as a teacher's aide through the University's Community School Student Partnership. This summer, Nicole will be interning with Say Yes To Education, Inc., a national

nonprofit education foundation founded by a University of Pennsylvania alumnus, trustee and strong supporter of Posse, George Weiss.

Nicole attributes much of her growth and success thus far to Posse. "Posse has helped me to adjust a lot better," she says.

"Twelve months ago, I never thought such a great opportunity would have come around. I'm just so grateful that Posse Miami started during my senior year so that I could have this great opportunity and begin a legacy." ✨

## miami advisory board

Thomas D. Avazian	Senior Vice President & Regional Executive, Bank of America Merrill Lynch
Anne Chwat	General Counsel & Secretary, International Flavors & Fragrances
David Black	Associate, Berger Singerman
Jason Colon	PNNAC Representative
Sabrina Ferris	Co-Hiring Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig
Joanna Grover-Watson	Owner, Miami Therapy Works
Eleni Pryles Kalisch	Vice President, Federal Government Relations, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.
Jean-Pierre Trouillot	Partner, KPMG Transaction Services, Miami

## posse miami partner colleges & universities

Hamilton College  
Mount Holyoke College  
Syracuse University  
University of Pennsylvania

## posse miami

Larissa Ramos, Director  
1101 Brickell Ave, Suite 1000N  
Miami, FL 33131  
Phone: (305) 377-3990  
Fax: (305) 377-3999  
miami@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](http://www.possefoundation.org)