

# Posse Atlanta Celebrates the Power of 10

On October 7, 2009, Posse Atlanta hosted its first Power of 10 fundraiser at the One Ninety One Club in downtown Atlanta. Atlanta Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Beverly Hall was the honoree and keynote speaker. The event was a tremendous success, raising \$131,100 in donations from individuals and corporations, with over 100 business and community leaders, donors, Advisory Board members and volunteers in attendance.

## FROM THE BLANK FOUNDATION TO BEVERLY HALL, WE ARE INCREDIBLY LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH ADVOCATES

Eclipsys Corporation was the lead sponsor of the event and Goldman, Sachs & Co. was also a sponsor. These contributions were championed by Atlanta Advisory Board Chair Phil Pead, who is president and CEO of Eclipsys, and Carl Peoples, Atlanta Advisory Board member and vice president of Private Wealth Management at Goldman Sachs. Ernst & Young LLP also made a generous donation to the event.

“We are so thankful to our community of supporters in Atlanta. From the Blank Foundation to Beverly Hall, we are incredibly lucky to have such advocates,” said Posse President and Founder Deborah Bial, who, along with Posse Chair Emeritus Michael Ainslie, also attended the event.

A highlight of the evening was Phil Pead’s announcement of a \$30,000 personal pledge to Posse Atlanta that he challenged guests to match by a showing of hands. As Phil led the auction style pledge drive, guests’ hands were flying in the air. The challenge raised \$36,800 on the spot, including \$19,300 from new donors.

“I am very committed to the work and mission of this powerful organization,” Phil said. “To see a



(from left) Posse Atlanta Director Charisse M. Williams, Superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools Dr. Beverly L. Hall, Posse President and Founder Deborah Bial, Posse Atlanta Advisory Board Chair Phil Pead and Posse Chair Emeritus Michael Ainslie.

room full of people join me in that commitment was both inspiring and humbling.”

Posse Atlanta was very happy to have honoree Dr. Beverly Hall present and hear her inspiring remarks. In her speech, she referenced *Crossing the Finish Line*, a book about increasing college retention and graduation rates.

Dr. Hall pointed out that the authors cite The Posse Foundation as an example of how best to move larger numbers of students successfully across the graduation stage after four years of college. She also talked about increasing the country’s “talent dividend.”

“If we increased the four-year college attainment rate by just one percentage point in each of the 51 largest metropolitan areas, including Atlanta, it would add \$124 billion—with a ‘B’—to the nation’s annual income,” she said.

Overall, the evening was a huge success, dramatically increasing our support base and visibility in Atlanta. ✨



Posse Atlanta Advisory Board Chair Phil Pead.

## Power of 10 Sponsors



# Scholar Pursues U.N. Dream at The College of Wooster

Yanique Rae, Wooster Posse 1, labeled herself a “Wooster fanatic” even before she became a finalist for the Posse Scholarship as a senior at Chattahoochee High School. Now a sophomore at The College of Wooster in Ohio, Yanique’s excitement about the school has only grown.



## scholar highlight

Yanique Rae  
Wooster Posse 1

When she is not busy participating in the Gospel Choir, the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and Women of Images on campus, Yanique can be found studying in Timken Science Library. She hopes that once she establishes her career, she can give back to the library she spends many waking hours in. Yanique feels her enthusiasm about her professors also makes the college experience worthwhile.

Having lived in many different cities growing up, settling in Wooster’s small college town is a welcomed change for Yanique. Back home, she has a big, close-knit family. On campus, Posse mirrors this support system.

“Posse has my back and supports me every step of the way,” says Yanique. Her fellow Scholars and Posse staff

Yanique Rae, Wooster Posse 1.

appreciate her impromptu dancing, singing and ongoing laughter.

Yanique’s variety of interests also include writing, learning about European and Asian history, and pediatrics. Yet, it is her insatiable drive to eliminate social and civil injustice that motivated Yanique to major in political science, and secure an internship with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in New York this past summer.

Her internship responsibilities

ranged from researching theories of discrimination and EEOC laws and conducting intake interviews, to helping mediate cases. She says that the experience affirmed her passion for social and civil justice and brings her one step closer to fulfilling her dream to work for the United Nations.

A young leader who has already accomplished so much, Yanique plans to attend law school after graduation in order to get her foot in the door at a law firm or NGO. ✨

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## posse atlanta

- Charisse M. Williams, Director
- 101 Marietta Street, N.W., Suite 1040
- Atlanta, GA 30303
- Phone: (404) 751-3340
- Fax: (404) 751-1691
- [atlanta@possefoundation.org](mailto:atlanta@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](mailto:info@possefoundation.org)

visit posse on the web at:  
[www.possefoundation.org](http://www.possefoundation.org)