

# Awards Ceremony Celebrates 51 D.C. Scholars



Posse D.C.'s largest group of Scholars to date after receiving scholarships from their partner universities and colleges.

On Tuesday, January 6, Posse D.C. welcomed its largest class of new Scholars at the 5th Annual Awards Ceremony, which capped off a record recruitment season.

With the addition of the University of Wisconsin-Madison as our fifth partner institution, Posse D.C. received over 1,200 nominations from local schools and community-based organizations, a significant increase over last year's nominations and more than double the number of nominations received in Posse D.C.'s first recruitment season just five years ago.

By strengthening partnerships with the Montgomery County and Arlington County school districts, Posse was able to greatly increase the number of students served from these surrounding districts, 41 percent of whom were first-generation college students. While increasing Posse's presence in these surrounding counties,

we continue to prioritize our commitment to serving D.C. Public School students, who won more Posse Scholarships than students from any other district.

## COLLEGE WOULD HAVE BEEN A REAL STRUGGLE FOR HER AND HER FAMILY WITHOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The Awards Ceremony was held at the Lansburgh Shakespeare Theatre in downtown Washington. Each Posse Scholar was called to the stage and received a \$100,000 scholarship from one of D.C.'s partner institutions: Bucknell University, Grinnell College, Lafayette College, Sewanee: The University of the South and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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### Posse D.C. Welcomes Class of 2013

#### Bucknell Posse 5

Davon Bailey,  
 Cleveland Cunningham, William  
 Farley, Angela Hernandez, Whitney  
 Jerome, Asha Jordan, Cherie Malone,  
 Daniel Markwalter, Edgardo Parrilla,  
 Yanjinsuren Tseveensuren,  
 Mayron Yohannes

#### Grinnell Posse 5

Jumi Bello, Ian Gold,  
 William Jackson, Adam Johnston,  
 Anika Manzoor, Shanna Nichols,  
 Guadalupe Osorio,  
 Ashley Richardson, Hanan Romodan,  
 Luis Vallejo

#### Lafayette Posse 4

Natasha Gordon, Emanuel Gurara,  
 Gary Kennedy, Konstantinos  
 Papadogiannis, Charnelle Pinkett,  
 Brandi Porter, Thafhim Siddiqua,  
 Kristian Smith,  
 Taneesha Tate-Robinson,  
 Stephanie Valenzuela

#### Sewanee Posse 3

Maria Ahmad, Iysha Cawthon,  
 Patrick Dienzo, Samuel Edoung-Biyo,  
 Nathalie Fowler, Kevin Garcia,  
 Devin Loftus, Fasion Maxwell,  
 Mae Missana, LeJon Vines

#### Wisconsin Posse 1

Jessica Diaz-Hurtado, Dolapo Esho,  
 LaNesha Kears, Alicia Montague-Keels,  
 Ibrahim Raheem, William Saffron,  
 Gideon Samson, Jasmine Savoy,  
 Ashley Thorpe, Chut Vu

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The new class was welcomed by scholarship recipients from previous years with boisterous rounds of their college and university fight songs.

The true power and possibility of Posse is often expressed best through the words of our Scholars and those closest to them. The night concluded with parents, counselors, principals and spiritual leaders sharing their hopes and inspiration for the Scholars.

"I can't tell you how much this means to Thafhim and her family," said Sarah Sherolds from Liberty's Promise. "College would have been a real struggle for her and her family without [the scholarship]. Moreover, this is the only way that her family would feel comfortable with her going away for school.

Thafim is thrilled to be admitted into this program and such a great college. She is looking forward to the academic challenge as well as the opportunity to develop her leadership skills."

All 51 new Scholars reflect the talent, diversity and promise of the D.C. area, and Posse will continue to develop that potential during our pre-collegiate training this year.✱



Thafhim Saddiqua (third from left) with fellow members of Lafayette Posse 4 and John Leone, the associate director of major gifts at Lafayette College.



(from left) Director Marcy Mistrett; Eric Hartman, dean of students at Sewanee; Harvey Borkin, alumnus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison; John Leone, associate director of major gifts at Lafayette College; Mark Davies, assistant vice president of enrollment management at Bucknell; and Elena Bernal, special assistant to the president for diversity and achievement at Grinnell.

## Bucknell Scholars Resurrect Black Sorority on Campus

Driven by the principles of academic excellence, public service, education, and sisterhood that the national sorority Delta Sigma Theta espouses, a small group of Posse Scholars at Bucknell University decided to explore what it would take to open a chapter on campus.

### IT WAS ABOUT BRINGING SOMETHING POSITIVE TO THE LARGER BUCKNELL COMMUNITY

In the fall of 2007, Posse Scholars Candace DePass (Posse 2) and Nakea Tyson (Posse 3), along with several other Bucknell students began taking the necessary steps to bring the sorority to campus.

After some initial research, Candace and Nakea discovered that although Bucknell had established a joint chapter with Bloomsburg College in 1999, it never yielded active members at Bucknell.

"We decided that we really wanted to rush with the Bloomsburg chapter to ensure that Delta Sigma Theta was integrated into Bucknell's thriving Greek life," says Candace.

After a long semester of rushing and attending programming at a school 40 minutes away from campus, three Bucknell women, including Candace and Nakea, crossed into sisterhood this fall. They have hit the ground running, implementing the principles of the Deltas at Bucknell. They are already working with a fraternity and students from

other multicultural organizations to run programs that include an educational workshop on self image, community service for Martin Luther King Day, and the adoption of a community-service project in the local community of Lewisburg.

"It would have been easy just to say that this [sorority] isn't something that Bucknell offers," Nakea says. "Then I realized that just because it's not here, doesn't mean it can't be. All we needed to do was to reach out and figure out a way to make it happen. I realized it was worth all the hard work because it was bringing something much bigger than myself to campus; it was about bringing something positive to the larger [Bucknell] community."✱

# D.C. Scholars Explore Careers in Public Health

In early January, Posse D.C. Advisory Board Member and MedStar Health Chief Operating Officer Dennis Pullin hosted 15 Scholars for a full day of exploration and learning at the Careers in Public Health event. The goal of the day was to expose Scholars to the many diverse, challenging and respected career opportunities in the field of health care, one of the few stable and growing industries in today's economy.

In addition to hearing about the work and career path of the COO, Scholars were able to ask questions of senior leadership in public affairs, marketing, and government affairs from The Cancer Research Institute and the highly acclaimed National Rehabilitation Hospital.

## SCHOLARS WERE INTRIGUED TO LEARN ABOUT THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF HOSPITAL

Scholars took an in-depth tour of the Washington Hospital Center, one of the largest hospital complexes in the nation. Scholars were also treated to behind-the-scenes views of how the various hospital departments fit together with informative presentations from dozens of friendly and engaging staff. Included on this tour were the KIDS Mobile Medical Clinic, Pharmacy, Radiology Department, Nursing Burn Unit, and Clinical Laboratory. Many Scholars commented on how exciting it was to see the real-world application of their class studies.

"I walked into the hospital that day so sure of what I wanted to do in healthcare, and left confused as to what specific occupation I wanted to pick," says Bianca Vassar, Lafayette Posse 3. "The various jobs needed just to keep the Washington Hospital Center running truly amazed me."

The Scholars were intrigued to learn about the various aspects of the hospital and potential health-related careers that were previously unknown to them. Additionally, several of the Washington Hospital Center staff



Posse D.C. Scholars spend a day at the Washington Health Center to gain insight into various careers in the medical fields.

commented on how engaged the Scholars were, and how impressed they were with their intelligent questions. "[Even] for young people as bright as [Posse Scholars] are, there are no challenges and rewards in our near future as great as those we'll experience in health care," says Molly King, the director of volunteer & educational program development at MedStar Health.

"I have no doubt, after spending a day with your Scholars, that they are equipping themselves to overcome those challenges and reap those rewards."

This was a fantastic beginning to what we hope and expect will be a strong partnership with MedStar Health.\*



Scholars look on while a pharmacy technician measures a medicine dosage.

## Looking to Hire a Dynamic Young Leader?

You can make a significant contribution to the development of tomorrow's leaders by hiring a Posse Scholar to intern with your organization this summer.

The Career Program helps Posse Scholars transition from being leaders on campus to becoming leaders in the workforce.

We partner with industry leaders who provide Scholars with paid, meaningful summer work experiences.

A partnership between your organization and Posse allows you access to this ever-growing network of talented and diverse young leaders.

If interested, contact Posse D.C. Career Program Manager Josh Christianson at [joshc@possefoundation.org](mailto:joshc@possefoundation.org).

## Burness Donates to Posse's Pre-Collegiate Training Program

Burness Communications, a public relations firm that advances social change for nonprofits worldwide, is helping to prepare the newest class of Posse Scholars for college through Posse's Pre-Collegiate Training Program. Burness Communications provides volunteers and financial support for this comprehensive, eight-month training program.

From January to August of their senior year in high school, D.C.'s 51 new Scholars meet weekly with trainers, writing coach volunteers and their Posse peers for two-hour workshops that address student leadership, team building, cross-cultural communication and academic excellence.

Scholars will meet weekly with trainers, writing coach volunteers and their Posse peers for two-hour workshops that address student leadership, team building, cross-cultural communication and academic excellence. The goal of the training program is to prepare Scholars for leadership on campus and for the high-level academic expectations of their colleges.

Thank you Burness for investing in tomorrow's young leaders.\*



Advisory Board members (from left) Angela Pullin, Brandy Hays, Frank Sesno, Camille Riggs Mosley, Joan Fabry, Bonnie Cohen, Bryan Greene, Caroline Little, and Michael Maurer at the January meeting.

## D.C. Advisory Board Has Banner Year

Posse D.C. would not be able to achieve our rapid growth without the unyielding dedication, passion, and commitment of our local advisory board. Under the leadership of Caroline H. Little, North American CEO of Guardian, the Posse D.C. Advisory Board has worked tirelessly since 2004 to anchor Posse in the D.C. community.

This January, Caroline stepped down as Chair and is being succeeded by Bonnie Cohen, Principal of B.R.

Cohen and Associates.

In 2008, the advisory board was challenged to increase revenues by more than 30 percent—an incredible challenge given the state of the economy. Not only did the board rise to the challenge, they exceeded it by raising 102 percent of our revenue goals.

Posse staff and Scholars would like to thank these incredible unsung heroes for their hard work in making dreams come true!\*

## d.c. advisory board

### CHAIR

Bonnie Cohen	Principal, B.R. Cohen & Associates
Joan I. Fabry	Architect
Zina Garrison	Professional Tennis Player
Bryan Greene	Director, Office of Policy and Program Evaluation, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Brandy Hays	IBM, International Consultant and Rice Posse 1 Alumna
Iris Ioffreda	Principal, Organizational Learning Associates
Tom J. Joyce	Vice President of Corporate Communications, Sallie Mae, Inc.
Michael S. Maurer	Attorney, Washington D.C.
Camille Riggs Mosley	Vice President Business Development, Lee Hecht Harrison
Dennis W. Pullin	COO of MedStar, Washington Hospital
David M. Riley	Senior Vice President, Capital Research Company
Frank Sesno	Professor of Media and Public Affairs, George Washington University; Special Correspondent, CNN
Kim Wallace	Managing Director and Chief Political Analyst, Lehman Brothers

## posse d.c. partner colleges & universities

Bucknell University  
Grinnell College  
Lafayette College  
Sewanee: The University of the South  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

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