

Posse L.A. Wins Innovation Award

On November 11, at the Social Innovation Fast Pitch, Halbe Dougherty-Wood, Posse Los Angeles senior development officer, set out to wow an audience of 400 with her three-minute pitch on Posse. And wow them she did.

After a panel of judges deliberated, Posse Los Angeles was awarded the \$5,000 Impact and Innovation award.

In 2008, Los Angeles Social Venture Partners, the Social Enterprise Institute, and the University of Southern California, partnered in an effort to support social entrepreneurs tackling some of this city's toughest problems, and to contribute to the innovative, vibrant culture in the Los Angeles area.



Senior Development Officer Halbe Dougherty-Wood (center) with mentors Joanna Brody and Josh Drake.

TO WIN THE AWARD, POSSE WAS PITCHED TO AN AUDIENCE OF 400 COMMUNITY LEADERS AND POTENTIAL SUPPORTERS

To accomplish this, they created the Social Innovation Fast Pitch, a two-month training and mentoring program for innovative nonprofits effecting social change in Greater Los Angeles that culminates with a final fast-pitch event.

To compete for the award, Posse Los Angeles and Halbe were nominated for the Social Innovation Fast Pitch by Advisory Board Chair Eric Beckman.

As part of the program, Halbe was assigned two mentors, Josh Drake of Fulcrum Investors and Joanna Brody of Brody PR, both members of L.A. Social Venture Partners.

Josh and Joanna helped guide Halbe through writing and practicing the pitch to ensure Posse's program was clear

and inspirational to the audience. With their help, Halbe was able to explain the innovative nature of Posse's 20-year program and inspire the judges to deem Posse the most innovative and impactful program of the 10 finalists.

Posse would like to thank Los Angeles Social Venture Partners, Social Enterprise Institute and the University of Southern California for giving us this opportunity to share the Posse story.*

Student Selection Process Breaks Records

Every September, Posse Los Angeles sets out to find young leaders in the Los Angeles Unified School District through our Dynamic Assessment Process (DAP).

Our partner colleges and universities then award four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarships to the most promising of these students. After tripling our outreach to community-based organizations and public schools and introducing Posse to over 5,000 students, we received over 2,300 nominations for outstanding seniors—nearly twice the number received last year.

The need for our program is extensive, and as we grow to select more

students each year, we are able to better serve the students in our community.

THIS YEAR, POSSE LOS ANGELES' RECRUITMENT PROCESS BROUGHT IN 1,000 MORE NOMINATIONS THAN IN 2008

This year, Posse Los Angeles is selecting 80 Scholars who will receive four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarship from our outstanding partner colleges and universities: Bucknell University, Dickinson College, Grinnell College, Kalamazoo College, Tulane University,

UC Berkeley, UCLA and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Posse Los Angeles is currently supporting 190 Scholars on campus and helping over 75 Alumni secure meaningful employment with companies like MTV, Goldman Sachs, Health Net and Nielsen.

By March 2010, Posse Los Angeles will have selected a total of 354 Posse Scholars since our inception in 2002.

Next fall, thanks to the generosity of our college and university partners, 80 Los Angeles high school graduates will begin their life-changing journey as Posse Scholars.*

Ambitious Alumni Work, Attend Grad School

Posse Alumni are attending top graduate institutions and working for leading companies and organizations.

Christian Aparicio, Claremont Posse 1, spent the summer interning at Health Net, Inc. and this past August was hired full time as a marketing brand management coordinator. Tony Nguyen, Michigan Posse 1, was hired to work for Spike TV after interning there for two summers. And David Durand, Wisconsin Posse 1, is now working for City Year. All three companies are Career Program partners.

Other Alumni are working at companies and organizations such as Bank of the West, Barclays Capital, Creative Artists Agency, Goldman Sachs and Teach for America.

Posse Los Angeles Alumni are also furthering their education at top institutions such as Carnegie Mellon, Claremont Graduate University, Loma Linda University and The New School.



Elias Rangel, Claremont Posse 2, being inducted into the Alumni network by Trainer Lester Aleman, Grinnell Posse 1, and Regina Chagolla, Wisconsin Posse 1.

Regina Chagolla, Wisconsin Posse 1, is pursuing a master's degree in educational policy at Posse partner institution University of California, Berkeley. She plans to earn her Ph.D. in the same field.

The Posse movement has gained momentum on the West Coast since the opening of Posse Los Angeles in 2002. Over the last seven years, 354 Scholars have received over \$49 million in four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarships from our partner universities and colleges.

By the year 2020, Posse Los Angeles will have awarded over 1,000 scholarships to talented public high school students.

In 2009, five Posses graduated, which is Posse Los Angeles' largest graduating class to date. We now have a local Alumni network of over 75 graduates, and that number is growing each year.

These Alumni join a national network of over 1,000 Posse graduates who represent a new generation of leaders that reflect the rich diversity of our country. With the help of our partner companies and institutions, Posse is laying the groundwork for a dynamic network that will not only change Los Angeles, but will someday lead our nation.*

Dickinson Alumna Interns at White House

Interning at the White House is a stepping stone for Valeria Carranza, Dickinson Posse 1, who hopes to pursue a long career in politics.

alumni highlight

Valeria Carranza, Dickinson Posse 1

Due to her demonstrated political activism and past involvement with local city councils, Valeria was named a Center for Progressive Leadership fellow.

As a fellow, she receives assistance securing full-time positions in the political sector and is invited to participate in workshops to advance networking, leadership and job skills.

As an intern in the Office of Presidential Correspondence, Valeria spends her time updating White House staff on current events, maintaining correspondence with the American public and working closely with volunteers.

She recently developed a volunteer recruitment and retention program, which the directors of volunteers and correspondence deemed "genius." Valeria



Valeria Carranza, Dickinson Posse 1, interns in the Office of Presidential Correspondence at the White House.

has also been selected as the only intern in her department to work daily to compile the report to the executive office of the President—a huge honor.

Valeria also has the privilege of assisting with first-family events. "I will never forget meeting the first-family, even the family dog, Bo. The president could be speaking about astronomy and still manage to evoke emotion. I find myself in awe of such a symbol of hope," she says.

Prior to working at the White House, Valeria gained experience as a council aide in the Albuquerque City Council office and before that, in the Los Angeles City Council office of Councilmember Tony Cárdenas, a Career Program partner.

She majored in international studies and Latin American studies at Dickinson College and became co-founder of the school's Law Society. She also studied abroad in Brazil.

Valeria has already been offered a position with the Department of Justice and plans to stay on Capitol Hill for as long as possible.

She is particularly passionate about youth development, specifically policy focusing on gang intervention and prevention.

Valeria gives credit to her grandmother for the motivation to accomplish such extraordinary things.

"I always think of my maminena's strength and genius," she says. "If she was able to raise us all with no money, no English and no resources, I have no excuse or alternative but to succeed.*"

Disney Studios Teaches Four Scholars the Ropes

Securing an internship with The Walt Disney Studios is an opportunity many college students only dream about. For the past two years, The Walt Disney Studios has been making that dream a reality for Posse Scholars.

This year, the Studio hired four Scholars, who worked in the areas of controllership, feature animation and music, three very different branches of the business. Our Scholars loved every minute of the experience.

THE SCHOLARS WHO HAVE INTERNEED CONTINUE TO IMPRESS US WITH THEIR WORK ETHIC AND DEDICATION

Scholars not only learned about their specific fields; they attended networking events; received passes to feature sneak-peaks and met the chairman of The Walt Disney Studios at a special presentation held at the famous El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood.

Donovan Malloy, Wisconsin Posse 4, saw his internship as a way to work on his own professional development while learning from others. "I loved hearing from the executives," says Donovan. "They were all at such a high level in the



Donovan Malloy, Wisconsin Posse 4, and Ginger Chen, one of his supervisors, from human resources, at Disney Animation.

company. I think it's really unusual for leaders to take time out of their day to speak to interns."

"The Walt Disney Studios has been thrilled with our Posse partnership," says Gina Aarnikoski, manager, Studio Recruitment. "The Scholars who have interned continue to impress us with their work ethic and dedication." We are very excited about 2010 and look forward to

hiring even more Scholars next summer."

As Posse's Career Program grows in the Los Angeles community, partnerships with leading companies like The Disney Studios are invaluable. They give Scholars the chance to grow professionally. The Walt Disney Studios and all of our Career Program partners are helping Scholars become leaders in the workforce, one summer at a time.*

Scholars Attend Magic Johnson Foundation Conference Leadership Event Gives Scholars Blueprint for Personal and Professional Success

It's not every day that Posse Scholars are invited to meet celebrities such as Magic Johnson. Asia Anderson, Tulane Posse 1, and Jose Alfaro, Grinnell Posse 7, are two such lucky Scholars.

BOTH SCHOLARS LEFT THE WEEKEND EMPOWERED AND MOTIVATED WITH SOME NEW FRIENDS TO CALL ON

On July 9-13, they participated in The Magic Johnson Foundation's Taylor Michaels Scholarship Program Leadership Conference held at UCLA.

Asia and Jose, who graduated from King/Drew Medical Magnet High School and Polytechnic High School, respectively, were handpicked to attend the conference as special guests.

This year's theme, Blueprint for Success, was based on the idea that every person needs to build a strong foundation in order to succeed in his or her personal, academic and professional life.

"The activities were all geared toward preparing students for life ahead, focusing on networking and leadership skills while encouraging a supportive group environment," says Jose.

The Magic Johnson Foundation kept Scholars busy for five days with rigorous schedules including group activities, discussions and lectures.

Some of the guest speakers included D'Artagnan Scorza, a student member of the UC Board of Regents who overcame a poverty-stricken past, and Bill Margiritis, vice president for Global Communications and Investor Relations for FedEx.

After the guest speakers, Magic himself hosted "Magic Hour," during which he shared his story and took photos with the students. Jose, who is a Lakers fan, described meeting him as, "just amazing."

Both Asia and Jose came away from the weeklong event empowered and motivated, with some new friends to call on.

"I gained a family from this experience and I realized that though there are many opportunities and resources available to me, it is up to me to take advantage of them," says Asia.

Jose echoes this sentiment. "With the family atmosphere of this conference, I left with a greater respect and appreciation for the friendship and support that comes from my Posse."*

L.A. Happy Hour Raises Friends and Funds

On a beautiful starry night in August, Posse Los Angeles hosted a Happy Hour to celebrate the last month of summer.

The event was a huge success thanks to the generosity of Falcon Restaurant and Lounge in Hollywood and the help of our event committee: Advisory Board member Raj Vig, Leadership Council members Mike Zugay and Alison Sternberg and longtime supporter Erika Carter.

Over 140 people came to learn more about Posse and almost \$10,000 was raised thanks in part to Lockton Insurance.

“With the help of valuable volunteers, like our event committee, events such as the Happy Hour have been critical to our efforts to spread the word about our work in L.A.,” says Director Tamara Craver.

Advisory Board Chair Eric Beckman spoke at the event to share the Posse story and news of our most recent coverage on CNN.

Alumnus Christian Aparicio, Claremont Posse 2, shared his Posse



(from right) Happy Hour Committee Member Mike Zugay with friends at the August Happy Hour.

experience and recent success in securing a job with Health Net, Inc., a Career Program partner.

“The most valuable thing about Posse is that it is a family,” said Christian. “Being a part of that family means I have been

supported in every way possible, which helped me thrive at Claremont McKenna.”

With such a successful first-time event, similar events are being planned for next year to welcome more people to the Posse family.✱

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