First Science Posse Enrolls, Excels at Brandeis University

Irving Epstein, a chemistry professor at Brandeis University in Massachusetts, was awarded a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in 2006 to improve science education and increase interest in the field among underrepresented students. Having been present of Brandeis at the onset of its partnership with The Posse Foundation more than 10 years ago and very familiar with Posse's outstanding track record, Epstein collaborated with the Foundation to replicate its successful model and establish specialized Posses dedicated to science.

“Through this unique Posse experience, Brandeis gains a much more diverse set of students in the sciences and is able to attract students who otherwise might not have come here,” says Epstein.

A MAJORITY OF THE POSSE
MADE THE DEAN’S LIST
FIRST SEMESTER

Members of Brandeis Science Posse 1, now in their first year on campus, are excelling socially and academically—with a majority of the Posse making the dean's list in their first semester. Beyond their rigorous science curriculum and general coursework, they have also found time to participate in activities as wide-ranging as Bhangra dancing, volleyball and...
Visionary Educator, Pioneer Partner Deepens Commitment to Posse

This year, University of Wisconsin-Madison welcomed 30 Posse Scholars from Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., to its sprawling campus, offering them a first-class education at a world renowned research institution. For these opportunities, Wisconsin Scholars have Chancellor Emeritus John D. Wiley to thank.

JOHN HAS EXPANDED HIS COMMITMENT TO POSSE BY JOINING THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 2001, then Chancellor Wiley began a partnership with Posse Chicago by becoming the first partner president to recruit, identify and cultivate Posse Scholars. His visionary leadership helped to establish the Posse Program’s presence in the Midwest.

“I’m always thinking about how to transform the world to make it a better place,” John says. “Posse alumni are the most talented, creative and socially conscious people I have ever met.”

To that end, Derron worked with Wheaton’s administration to create the Center for Service, Spirituality and Social Responsibility, which helps address the unique cultural and religious concerns of students from diverse backgrounds and belief systems.

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In 2006, he chaired the Big Ten Council of Presidents and Chancellors. Throughout his more than 30-year tenure at Wisconsin, John has been both a professor and administrator, serving as provost, dean of the graduate school, chief operating officer and vice chancellor, among other posts, before becoming chancellor in 2001.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON BECAME THE FIRST TRI-CITY POSSE PARTNER INSTITUTION

“One of my most gratifying experiences occurs when former students return to campus and reminisce about how their college experiences contributed to their success in reaching their goals,” he says.

John has expanded his commitment to Posse this year by joining the national board of directors, having set a solid foundation for a successful and lasting partnership at Wisconsin.

“Posse students are amazingly talented and energetic leaders, just as Debbie promised they would be,” John says. “The Posse Program intervenes and rescues talent, creativity and potential, one student at a time. That is work I am happy to support any way I can.”

A physicist and career educator, John is a prominent figure in higher education. He is a member of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Chancellor Emeritus John D. Wiley.

In 2007, Derron was awarded the Kathryn Davis 100 Projects for Peace Fellowship, which supports peace studies in an effort to better understand our interconnected world and to promote active citizenship.

Alumnus Sets Sights on Changing the World

Honored Graduate Wins Prestigious Marshall Scholarship for Study at University of Cambridge

Derron Wallace received top student leadership awards each of his four years at Wheaton College in Massachusetts. He graduated with honors and was on the dean’s list every semester. A sociology major with a focus on the African diaspora and minor in economics, Derron was president of the student government and co-founded Wheaton’s first gospel choir.

For Derron, these and his many other accomplishments are merely opportunities to positively impact the experience of others.

“For me, in all that I do, I always think about how to transform an institution, myself and ultimately the world to make it a better place,” he says.

To that end, Derron worked with Wheaton’s administration to create the Center for Service, Spirituality and Social Responsibility, which helps address the unique cultural and religious concerns of students from diverse backgrounds and belief systems.

Bill Clinton Taps Posse for Global Initiative

At the 2008 Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Annual Meeting—a gathering of a diverse community of leaders of state, nonprofit, business and religious leaders; academics and media from around the world—Posse President and Founder Deborah Bial weighed in on the state of education in the United States.

Deborah was invited to represent The Posse Foundation as a member of CGI and speak on a panel entitled, “Providing Real Choices: What works for at-risk adolescent girls and boys?”

CGI is a tremendously important leader in promoting philanthropy worldwide.”

CGI was started in 2005 by President Bill Clinton to strategize and employ innovative solutions to some of the world’s most critical challenges. Over the past two years, CGI’s efforts have focused on education, energy, climate change, global health and poverty alleviation.

“The Clinton Global Initiative is a tremendously important leader in promoting philanthropy worldwide,” says Deborah. “Posse is extremely honored by President Clinton’s recognition and by the opportunity to partner with CGI as we continue our work to ensure diversity and equal access in higher education.”

CGI’s action-oriented approach to addressing global ills relies on its members to develop commitments to action that focus on effective problem-solving measures that can be immediately implemented and productively evaluated.

In addition to presenting at the meeting, Deborah announced Posse’s commitment to double its national footprint and increase its impact exponentially within the next 10 years. Toward that goal, Posse has embarked on a major multimillion-dollar venture philanthropy initiative.

University of Wisconsin-Madison Chancellor Emeritus John D. Wiley.


Posse President and Founder Deborah Bial speaks on panel at Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting.
$43M in Scholarships Won by 430 Students in 6 Cities

This year, from a pool of over 9,000 nominees, 430 new Posse Scholars won $43 million in scholarships from Posse’s partner colleges and universities. Throughout December and January, Awards Ceremonies took place in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and Washington, D.C., to welcome Posse’s Class of 2013. As they were applauded by their families, guidance counselors, community mentors and college administrators, each Scholar accepted a white rose—a symbol of the passing of the torch to the next class of Scholars—and took their place on stage to meet their Posse for the first time.

A significant portion of each ceremony was also dedicated to giving both Scholars and members of their families the opportunity to publicly share their sentiments of pride, excitement and gratitude.

Over the past 20 years, Posse’s college and university partners have awarded more than $265 million in Posse Scholarships to 2,650 students across the country.

**Posse Awards Ceremonies**

(clockwise from top right)

Obiamaka Nwachukwu, Bryn Mawr Posse 9 (Boston), and her sister Adaora.

Connecticut College Posse 1 (Chicago).

(From left) Brandeis Posse 12 (New York) Scholars Adrienne Thompson, David Robles-Collins and Haemee Kang.

Boston University Posse 2 (Atlanta).

Dickinson Posse 5 (Los Angeles).


A further testament to Posse’s growing reputation for excellence among institutions of higher education has been the expansion of graduate school opportunities for Posse Alumni. This past fall, Posse established partnerships with Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management and Law School.

Kellogg is ranked No. 1 by U.S. News & World Report for its executive M.B.A. program and boasts over 50,000 alumni—including Posse Board members Wade Fetzer, Barbara Janulis, Steven Lefkowitz, Jeff Ubben and Tim Ubben.

Ranked ninth in the country, Northwestern Law School is renowned for its strong commitment to public service and has one of the most diverse student populations among law schools nationwide. Additionally, we have expanded our partnership with The University of Washington (UW) to include the College of Education, the Information School and the School of Social Work.

All five of these top programs have pledged to provide scholarships and stipends to support graduate study for Posse Alumni each year.

**Kellogg and Northwestern Law Establish Posse Fellowships for Graduate Study**

U. Wash. Expands Grad Partnership to Info, Education, Social Work Programs

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This summer, three Scholars will participate in competitive academic enrichment programs. Both Angel Garcia and Gloriya Nedler were accepted into the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program which has program sites at various institutions throughout the country. Angel will attend the program at Case Western University and Gloriya at Yale. Rebekah LaFontant will study at Tufts’ Summer Medical Research Program.

**This Summer, Scholars Will Participate in Competitive Science Enrichment Programs**

These trailblazing Scholars are undoubtedly paving the way for the next Posse, leaving big shoes to fill. Brandeis Science Posse 2 Scholars are currently in pre-collegiate training at Posse and will matriculate this fall.
Posse Institute Publishes Report on Social Responsibility

This past fall, The Posse Institute released its first report, which focuses on the theme of social responsibility. The report’s findings are drawn from the impressions of nearly 2,000 students and several faculty and administrators of Posse partner institutions who attended PossePlus Retreats (PPRs) around the country in 2008.

All retreat participants completed a survey that gauged their opinions on social responsibility from a personal, national and global perspective. The report highlights four major findings that emerged.

First, a significant majority of students surveyed—67 percent—believe that racism is still a problem on their campuses. Students indicated that race relations need improvement and that the need for representative diversity remains an important issue on their campuses and in the greater society. Beyond the call for racial equity, students also emphasized the need to ensure equal rights for women and the LGBT community.

Second, more than half of students said that they spend more than one hour daily discussing current news and events. While students said they felt strongly about their communities and the world, a large percentage could not answer basic questions about national politics and world affairs. For example, 87 percent of students could not name the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

The report also reveals that students are displeased with the performance of the last administration and doubtful of the U.S. government’s ability to address important issues, protect the security of its citizens or represent the interests of the people.

Finally, the report found that a large majority of students surveyed—70 percent—planned to vote in the 2008 presidential election.

Currently underway at Posse partner schools, the 2009 PPRs entitled, “On Education,” will again open with participants completing surveys designed to frame the discussion and inform the Institute’s next report.