Obama Donates Portion of Nobel Prize to Posse

On March 11, 2010, The Posse Foundation became one of only 10 organizations selected by President Barack Obama to receive a portion of the president’s $1.4 million Nobel Peace Prize award money, which he elected to donate to charitable causes.

**THE PRESIDENT’S SUPPORT IS A MESSAGE TO THE COUNTRY THAT THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NEEDED AS LEADERS**

“These organizations do extraordinary work in the United States and abroad helping students, veterans and countless others in need,” said President Obama. “I’m proud to support their work.”

Within days of sharing the exciting news that Posse would receive a $125,000 grant from President Obama, hundreds of Posse Scholars and Alumni sent in letters expressing their appreciation for the president’s remarkable gift and recognition.

“On behalf of the entire Posse Foundation, I thank President Obama for this incredible acknowledgment and support,” says Posse President and Founder Deborah Bial. “For 20 years Posse has been finding outstanding young people and connecting them to the great education they so deserve.

“The president’s support is more than financial; it is a message to the country that these young people are not only important, but needed as leaders. We are beyond thrilled.”

The other nine organizations selected to receive donations ranging from $100,000 to $250,000 are: Fisher House, the Clinton-Bush Haiti Fund, College Summit, the United Negro College Fund, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, the Appalachian Leadership and Education Foundation, the American Indian College Fund, AfriCare and the Central Asia Institute.

University of Southern California Joins Program

The University of Southern California (USC) has signed on as Posse’s newest partner institution and will recruit its first class of Posse Scholars from New York City this fall.

Additionally, the University of Wisconsin-Madison—which already recruits Posse Scholars from Chicago, Los Angeles and D.C.—has expanded the program further to recruit specialized Science Posse Scholars from New York City, making them Posse’s first squad-city partnership.

Also recruiting Science Posse Scholars from New York City, Brandeis University will now admit liberal arts Posse Scholars from Atlanta as well.

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Located in Los Angeles, California, USC is one of the world’s leading private research institutions and the oldest on the West Coast. It is among the top 1 percent of the most selective colleges and universities in the country and is a global leader in the fields of communication, multimedia technologies and the life sciences.

With an undergraduate student body of 17,000, 12 percent of whom are first-generation college students, USC enrolls more international students than any other university in the country and offers extensive opportunities for internships and study abroad. The university also fosters a vibrant culture of public service and has received national recognition for its commitment to community involvement and service-learning programs.

“USC said from the start that the leadership aspect of Posse was what most attracted them,” says Posse President and Founder Deborah Bial. “USC’s commitment to public service and their awareness of the importance of developing global leaders from diverse backgrounds, makes them an ideal partner.

“We very much look forward to the collaboration and know the USC Posse Scholars will have a wonderful experience.”

Carnegie Mellon Becomes Graduate School Partner

The H. John Heinz III College at Carnegie Mellon University has signed on as a Posse graduate school partner. Heinz College will annually offer one Posse Alumni/as a full tuition graduate scholarship to its School of Public Policy & Management or School of Information Systems & Management.

In addition, Heinz College has agreed to provide tuition reduction scholarships—worth about $6,000 per semester—to all Posse Alumni who matriculate into any of their full-time master’s degree programs.

Carnegie Mellon is a national research university located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with over 7,500 students and 3,000 faculty, research and administrative staff. The School of Public Policy & Management is one of the nation’s leading public policy research institutions.

The School of Information Systems & Management consistently ranks among the world’s elite in information technology and information technology management.

Nobel Laureate Speaks at Posse’s Presidents’ Conference

On October 12, 2010, Joseph Stiglitz, winner of the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, was the featured speaker at The Presidents’ Conference on Higher Education and the Economy, which was moderated by University of Wisconsin-Madison Chancellor Carolyn “Biddy” Martin and hosted by The Blackstone Group in New York City.

Close to 40 chancellors and presidents from leading colleges and universities gathered for a discussion about the ramifications of a weakened U.S. economy for institutions of higher education.

The event also included a presentation on the need for diversity in STEM fields by Peter Bruns, professor emeritus of genetics at Cornell University and special consultant at Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

In addition, David Thomas, H. Naylor Fitzhugh professor of business administration at Harvard Business School, spoke on diversity in higher education and its impact on the demographics of corporate leadership.

The Presidents’ Conference is held biennially and provides a unique forum for top university and college leaders to discuss issues related to diversity, access and equity in higher education.

To learn more about upcoming Posse events, please visit our website at possefoundation.org.
First Lady Invites Posse Fdn. to White House

On invitation from Michelle Obama, The Posse Foundation visited the White House on March 13 and again on September 21 to conduct workshops for students participating in the first lady’s mentoring program—a yearlong initiative that aims to broaden the horizon of 20 D.C.-area teenage girls by pairing them with mentors who are members of the White House staff.

A GOOD MENTOR IS SOMEONE WHO LEADS BY EXAMPLE. THROUGH THIS PROGRAM, THE FIRST LADY IS DOING JUST THAT

Posse President and Founder Deborah Bail along with Posse graduates and alumnae Yniette Sanno and Tynesha Wright and director of training and evaluation Regina Bain conducted the days’ workshops. Mrs. Obama thanked Deborah and Posse for its work on college access and stressed the importance of attaining a college degree.

The workshops focused on strategies for understanding the higher education landscape and tackling the college application process. Students filled out college “dream cards,” talked about educational values, created a personal college expectation map, and explored culture, diversity and academic life on college campuses.

“Being invited to the White House for this project was truly an amazing honor,” says Deborah. “It’s difficult to overstate the influence a mentor can have on a young person’s life. A good mentor is someone who, among other things, leads by example. And through this program, the first lady is doing just that.”

Alumnus Founds Org. to Serve Impoverished Children

Ryan Letalda, Wheaton Posse 5 (New York), graduated from Wheaton College in Massachusetts in 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in economics. Upon graduating, he set out for Manila, Philippines, on a Fulbright Fellowship to research the mass eviction of residents of poor urban communities. Less than a year later, he is preparing to send 100 laptops to two schools in small, impoverished fishing communities in the municipality of Lubang in Mindoro, Philippines.

MY EXPERIENCE WITH POSSE HELPED ME IDENTIFY MY PASSION FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In the summer of 2009, Ryan co-founded eKindling, a nonprofit social venture that seeks to enhance educational opportunities for underserved children. eKindling, short for education kindling, got its start when Ryan discovered the organization One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) and set a goal to expand its service to the Philippines. Since then, eKindling has raised more than $20,000 from donors across the globe and has partnered with OLPC to help provide its low-cost XO laptop to its intended audience: the world’s poorest children.

“I want to provide children in the Philippines with the educational opportunities that will allow them to dream bigger,” says Ryan.

Ryan and his family immigrated to the United States when he was 11 years old to escape poverty in the Philippines, settling in the Bronx, New York. He credits his parents’ sacrifice for the opportunities that particularly resonated with Tri.

“I have vivid memories of the very low quality medical care and dingy waiting areas in the primary care doctor’s office that served my low-income Vietnamese community growing up,” he says. “That experience heavily influenced my goal to become a doctor and provide top quality primary care, especially to those who need it most.”

Union Scholar Sets Out to Impact Medical Field

Tri Trang, Union Posse 3 (Boston) is a junior at Union College in Schenectady, New York. As a student in Union’s highly competitive eight-year Leadership Medicine Program—a combined bachelor’s, master’s and medical degree program—he is currently majoring in biology and economics and taking courses toward a master’s in science in health care management. He will begin medical school at Albany Medical College in 2013.

MY GOAL IS TO PROVIDE TOP-QUALITY PRIMARY CARE, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

“Union was my first choice,” Tri says. “When I found out I got the scholarship, I had a tough decision to make between Posse and going to an admissions interview for Harvard. Going to college with a group, a support network was the experience I wanted for myself.”

Tri and his family immigrated to the United States from Vietnam when he was just a baby and settled in Connecticut before moving to Worcester, Massachusetts. With a long history of academic achievement and community involvement that began in high school, Tri continues to be a remarkably active leader on campus and in both local and international communities. He co-facilitates an afterschool science program and tutors special needs children. He has also volunteered as a trained counselor for a smoking cessation program at the Schenectady Free Health Clinic and worked at UMass Memorial Hospital.

On campus, he is involved with the student AIDS awareness group FaceAids, the college’s environmental club, Habitat for Humanity and Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. He even founded a Hip Hop and break dance team called UBreak.

This past summer Tri interned with Posse Career partner Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts, gaining valuable exposure to different aspects of the health care field. He spent his winter break in Riobamba, Ecuador, traveling with the MEDLIFE Brigade, a team of volunteer doctors and students who provide basic medical and dental care to the area’s poorest communities. It was an experience that particularly resonated with Tri.

“I have vivid memories of the very low quality medical care and dingy waiting area in the primary care doctor’s office that served my low-income Vietnamese community growing up,” he says. “That experience heavily influenced my goal to become a doctor and provide top quality primary care, especially to those who need it most.”

Gala Honors Bucknell Pres. Brian Mitchell

On May 26, a record 650 guests gathered at Pier Sixty in New York City for the 2010 Posse Gala, An Evening of Stars. The annual event celebrates Posse’s incredible partners and supporters who have demonstrated a commitment to education and made a significant investment in the lives of young people.

Among the evening’s honorees was outgoing Bucknell University President Brian Mitchell, who was presented with the Posse Star Award by recent Bucknell Posse graduates.

“I DON’T SEE MYSELF AS A PARTICIPANT IN POSSE; I SEE MYSELF INSTEAD AS A SOLDIER IN A MOVEMENT

“I believe that the Posse Program is the best exemplar we have of a private public partnership that links colleges and universities to policy objectives, to university strategic plans, to American strategic needs and to societal needs across the globe,” he said. “It’s important to realize that this has the capacity to change lives, to change cultures on college and university campuses and to reinforce an American ethos.

“I can say clearly that I’m very proud to have participated in Posse and will continue to be active in it. But I don’t see myself as a participant in Posse; I see myself instead as a soldier in a movement.”

Under President Mitchell’s leadership, Bucknell became Posse’s second tri-city partner in 2009, annually awarding more than $4 million in Posse Scholarships to students in three cities.

Other honorees included Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvahlo, The Travelers Companies with Chairman and CEO Jay Fishman and, Derron Wallace, a Wheaton Posse Alumnus who is currently studying at the University of Cambridge on a Marshall Scholarship.

The hugely successful event, which raised $1.5 million, was once again emceed by past gala honoree and 60 Minutes Correspondent Lesley Stahl and included a special comedic performance by John Oliver from The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.
From a pool of more than 12,000 nominees, 480 new Posse Scholars in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, D.C., Los Angeles, New York and Posse’s newest site, Miami, won $67.2 million in four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarships and are now enrolled at 37 Posse partner colleges and universities across the country. Early this year each Posse site held an Awards Ceremony to welcome the newest class of Scholars, who were cheered on by their families, teachers and a welcoming community of fellow Scholars, Alumni, staff and partner college administrators. Special guests at Awards Ceremonies included Lawrence University University President Jill Beck, Union College President Stephen Ainlay, First Lady of Massachusetts and Posse National Board member Diane Patrick, Boston Schools Superintendent Dr. Carol Johnson and Miami-Dade Superintendent Alberto Carvalho, who was honored at this year’s Posse Gala event. Several of the ceremonies also received local and national media coverage in such outlets as WJLA News in D.C. and The Huffington Post. In its 21-year history, Posse has identified 3,148 exceptional young leaders who have won $334 million in four-year, full-tuition scholarships to some of the most selective colleges and universities in the country.
Campus Retreats Ask ‘Do We Still Need to Talk About Race?’

This year, nearly 3,000 participants came together at different sites around the country to explore the subject of race at Posse’s annual PossePlus Retreats (PPRs). PPRs are off-campus gatherings of Posse Scholars, fellow college students, administrators and faculty. More than 20 important campus issues identified by Posse Scholars.

Newer partner schools such as Bard College, Tulane University and University of California, Berkeley held their first retreats. The University of Wisconsin-Madison, a newly named quad city partner, held its first multicity retreat, which boasted nearly 200 participants.

Current events such as President Obama’s election, the appointment of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and the arrest of Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., framed the retreat discussions, which considered the question of whether or not we are in a post-racial society.

Some of the workshops led by Posse staff and professional facilitators included Blogosphere, which examines how comments about race differ in virtual forums, and Spaces, which looks at how race plays out in specific locations on campus.

**POSSEPLUS RETREATS AIM TO FACILITATE COMMUNITY BUILDING AND PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE**

Each PPR opened with a video on race, which, for the first time, featured unscripted street pedestrian interviews. The retreat closed with an activity in which participants wrote a children’s book about race. Participants also completed a survey on the topic, which will be used to inform a report that will be released by the Posse Institute later this year.

PossePlus Retreats aim to facilitate community building and productive dialogue while exploring a topic on a national, campus and individual level. Past PPR topics have included social responsibility and education.

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**PARTNER COLLEGES+UNIVERSITIES**

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**GRADUATE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS**

- Carnegie Mellon University Heinz College School of Public Policy & Management
- Carnegie Mellon University Heinz College School of Information Systems & Management
- Northeastern University College of Business Administration
- Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management
- Northeastern University School of Law
- University of Washington College of Education
- University of Washington Evans School of Public Affairs
- University of Washington Information School
- University of Washington School of Social Work

**POSSE MISSION**

Founded in 1989, The Posse Foundation identifies public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential who may be overlooked by traditional college selection processes. The Foundation extends to these students the opportunity to pursue personal and academic excellence by placing them in supportive, multicultural teams—Posses—of 10 students. The Foundation’s partner universities award Posse Scholars four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarships.