

# PRESIDENTS REPORT

## Posse Signs 10 New Partner Institutions

**Bryn Mawr Expands Partnership, Wesleyan & Vassar Recruit Veterans Posses**

The Posse network of top-tier partner colleges and universities now includes Agnes Scott College, Cornell University, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Northwestern University, St. Olaf College, Texas A&M University, University of Rochester, The University of Texas at Austin, Vassar College and Wesleyan University.

Furthermore, existing partner Bryn Mawr College expanded their commitment to the Posse program, enrolling a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Posse from Boston as well as its first Houston Posse.

“This has been an incredible year for growth,” says Posse President and Founder Deborah Bial. “The number of Posse chapters with new or deepened partnerships allows us to support and develop even more young leaders. I am continually impressed by the commitment these institutions make



St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, will recruit Scholars from Posse Chicago.

to transform higher education and the workforce.”

Posse Chicago adds to its roster Agnes Scott College (Decatur, Georgia), Cornell University (Ithaca, New York), and St. Olaf College (Northfield, Minnesota).

Hobart and William Smith Colleges (Geneva, New York) and Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois) welcomed their first Posses from Los Angeles in the fall.

Texas A&M University (College Station, Texas) added inaugural Posses

to their campus from two cities—a traditional Posse from Atlanta and a STEM Posse from Houston. Posse’s newest site in Houston also sent a Posse to The University of Texas at Austin (Austin, Texas).

Posse D.C. and the University of Rochester (Rochester, New York) partner this fall to recruit the university’s first Scholars.

Finally, the first Veterans Posse from New York matriculated at Vassar College (Poughkeepsie, New York). Wesleyan University (Middletown, Connecticut) becomes the second partner for the Veterans Posse initiative, joining Vassar in recruiting veteran Scholars this fall.

These new and expanded partnerships represent XXX scholarships in seven cities and bring the total number of Posse’s college and university partners to 47. \*

## Presidents Conference Tackles Economics of Higher Education

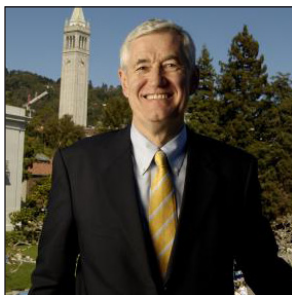
Last October, presidents and chancellors from top colleges and universities around the country convened in New York City for Posse’s biennial Presidents Conference on Higher Education. The conference entitled, Another Bubble: The Sustainability of the Higher Education Economic Model, explored the viability of the current model as it relates to issues of inclusion, diversity and equity at postsecondary institutions.

Hosted by The Travelers Companies and moderated by Chancellor Robert Birgeneau from the University of California, Berkeley, the day included a welcome from Travelers CEO Jay Fishman and presentations by Heather McGhee, the vice president of policy and outreach at Demos, a leading policy and advocacy agency; Morton Schapiro, the president of Northwestern University, a Posse partner institution; and Florence Davis, the president of the Starr Foundation.

An afternoon panel discussion on decision making at the board level featured Mark Dalton, co-chairman and CEO of Tudor Investment Corporation and chair of the Vanderbilt University Board; Brian Casey, the president of DePauw University; Steve Mandel, the founder of Lone Pine Capital and chair of the Dartmouth University Board; Daniel Weiss, the president of Lafayette College.

Setting the context for the day’s discussion, Ms. McGhee said, “We had a grand bargain in this country ... that said that people could either work or educate their way into the middle class. That necessitated a recognition that higher education was not just an individual benefit, but higher education

was a public good, was essential to the flourishing of this country ... As we all know in this room, we have entered a different era, and oftentimes ... we think about it in terms of the individual American Dream. But I’d like to challenge us to start thinking about it ... and disciplining our way of talking to reaffirm the public good that is at the heart of higher education.”\*



Robert Birgeneau, chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley.



Heather McGhee, vice president of policy and outreach at Demos.



Morton Schapiro, president of Northwestern University.

## Vassar College Selects Inaugural Veterans Posse



The first Vassar Veterans Posse with representatives from Infor, Moody’s, Posse and Vassar.

In January, at an awards ceremony in New York City hosted by Moody’s Corporation, The Posse Foundation and Vassar College recognized 11 veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces as members of the first Veterans Posse.

The men and women of the first Veterans Posse hail from all across the country, from communities big and small—from New York City to Copperas Cove, Texas. They have served in Afghanistan and Iraq as specialists in the Army, machine gunners in the Marine Corps, and engine mechanics in the Air Force, among many other key roles. Their accomplishments span a range of fields both inside and outside of the military—from winning the purple heart and researching nano-fibers at a Harvard University laboratory, to founding a domestic violence support organization and directing a reintegration program for homeless veterans.

The Veterans Posse initiative was launched last fall to help increase the attendance and graduation rates of veterans at selective colleges and universities. Vassar College is the first institution to partner with the

Foundation on this important program and welcomes the inaugural class to campus this fall.

We owe our veterans so much more than our gratitude for their service; we owe them our commitment to act on their behalf, to recognize their incredible value to our public and private institutions, and to invest in their success.

The Posse Foundation is proud to count each of these young men and women among the students it serves. \*

### Vassar College Veterans Posse:

- Fernando Braga, *Army*
- Carl Callender, *Marine Corps*
- David Carrell, *Army*
- Anuradha Datta, *Army*
- Eduardo De La Torre, *Army*
- John Eubanks, *Marine Corps*
- Patrick Hood, *Army*
- Joshua Ridley, *Air Force*
- Jacqueline Stowell, *Air Force*
- Karlene Williams, *Army*
- Jonathan Wood, *Marine Corps*

# 647 New Scholars Win \$90 Million in Scholarships

This winter, a record number of young leaders from across the country were welcomed to The Posse Foundation, including the inaugural Veterans Posse and the first Posses from Houston. From nearly 15,000 nominated students in nine cities, 647 Scholars were selected by Posse's 44 college and university partners who awarded more than \$90 million in four-year, full-tuition scholarships.

Awards ceremonies in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York and Washington, D.C. introduced each new Posse to the community. Hundreds of guests—families, Posse board and staff, college and university officials, teachers, corporate supporters and alumni—celebrated the accomplishments of the Scholars and commemorated the start of their Posse journey. Following eight months of Pre-Collegiate Training, they will matriculate on campus this fall.

To date, Posse has identified, recruited and trained more than 4,800 Scholars who have collectively won \$577 million in merit-based scholarships from the nation's top colleges and universities. \*



Houston's first Bryn Mawr Posse.

## Middlebury Alumna Develops National Entrepreneurship Program in Uganda

Angelica Towne graduated from Middlebury College five years ago determined to use her education to empower youth in developing countries around the world. Today, the international studies major is the co-founder and country director of Educate!, a national youth leadership development organization that works with thousands of students and young entrepreneurs in Uganda.

"I wanted to create a curriculum that was really practical and relevant, so that if a student dropped out the very next day, they could do something—start a business, organize their peers, or solve a problem in their community," says Angelica.

Educate! was seeing success before students were even halfway through the program; about 80 percent took on leadership roles in their schools, communities and churches. The Ugandan government saw it too and asked Educate! to help redesign their national entrepreneurship curriculum, which reaches 25,000 students across the country.

"The reason they wanted us is because we focus specifically on social entrepreneurship," says Angelica. "Uganda has the highest



Alumna Angelica Towne, the co-founder and country director of Educate!.

..... youth unemployment rate in Africa—83 percent are unemployed. Entrepreneurship is their best chance for success. We are really meeting a need."

Educate! has grown quickly and hopes ultimately to reach 100,000 students. More important, Angelica and Educate!'s other co-founders, Boris Bulayev and Eric Glustrom, are focused on transforming the entire education system in Uganda.

"We want all the schools to be measuring their success by asking, 'Have we created leaders and entrepreneurs, not just good test takers?'" says Angelica. "I came to Uganda thinking I was just going to help students grow personally, but I've realized that the ripple effect is huge." \*

## PossePlus Retreats Explore Class, Power, Privilege



Students at the Brandeis PossePlus Retreat participate in a small group workshop about class.

Each year, Posse Scholars identify an important issue to explore with the larger campus community at a weekend retreat called the PossePlus Retreat (PPR). This year's PPRs entitled, "What's Your Worth?" challenged 3,500 participants at 37 Posse partner colleges and universities to discuss the topic of class, power and privilege in America.

The PPRs tackled issues such as meritocracy, income disparity, the American Dream and social mobility. Lively workshops encouraged participants to consider how these concepts are manifest on campus,

in their personal lives, the political arena and the world at large.

A special video presentation featuring Joe Stiglitz, a Nobel Laureate and a professor of economics at Columbia University, and Bob Herbert, a journalist and a distinguished senior fellow at political think tank DEMOS, offered insightful perspectives on the idea of the America Dream.

At the end of the weekend, participants were encouraged to continue the constructive conversations, begun at the retreats, on campus. \*

## White House Science Fair Welcomes Cornell Scholar



Cornell Scholar Anthony Halmon shakes hands with President Obama at the White House.

Anthony Halmon, a member of Cornell University's first Posse, was one of 100 youth from across the country invited to meet President Obama at the fourth annual White House Science Fair this May. Anthony presented his invention—the Thermofier, a pacifier with a built-in thermometer—to a national audience; he was interviewed by many media outlets, including MSNBC.

"Being at the White House and meeting President Obama was unbelievable," said Anthony. "It's a great feeling when all your hard work pays off."

As a student at Perspectives Charter School, Anthony developed his idea for the Thermofier through his school's partnership with the Network

for Teaching Entrepreneurship program. He was inspired to create the Thermofier for his daughter who continually battled fevers as an infant.

"The experience of inventing something really taught me patience and discipline, and, most important, how to rebuild from failures," said Anthony.

This summer Anthony will be working with a patent attorney to get the Thermofier on the market before he matriculates at Cornell with his Posse in the fall.

"Posse is so much more than just a scholarship," said Anthony. "Posse is providing me with an opportunity for an excellent education and a support system that will help me overcome any challenges." \*

# President Obama Recognizes Posse's Growing STEM Initiative

## Bryn Mawr Expands Partnership to Recruit STEM Posses from Boston



Posse President and Founder Deborah Bial (far left) with President Obama and other distinguished guests at the White House Science Fair.

On February 7, President Obama acknowledged The Posse Foundation's specialized science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) program as aligned with his key initiatives to prepare 100,000 new STEM teachers and, over the next 10 years, train one million additional STEM graduates to fill the growing number of jobs in these fields.

In recognition of Posse's growing commitment to STEM education, President and Founder Deborah Bial was invited to the White House for the second annual White House Science Fair, celebrating student winners of a broad range of STEM competitions across the country.

New Posse Scholar Steven Colon also had the opportunity to attend as a student representative. Steven was recently awarded a Posse Scholarship to Brandeis University—where the Posse STEM model

was first introduced—as a member of the university's fifth Science Posse. He plans to study biochemistry.

"When students excel in math and science, they help America compete for the jobs and industries of the future," said President Obama in a White House press release. "That's why I'm proud to celebrate

outstanding students at the White House Science Fair, and to announce new steps my Administration and its partners are taking to help more young people succeed in these critical subjects."

The first all-women's STEM Posse matriculated at Bryn Mawr College this fall.

"While women fill more than half of all jobs in the U.S. economy, they hold less than 25 percent of science, technology, engineering, and math jobs," says Bryn Mawr President Jane McAuliffe. "In

today's global economy, the countries that lead do so through fostering technological innovation. Creating an environment where women can reach their full potential in the STEM fields is possible and can have impressive results. When it comes to helping students succeed, we know the Posse model works. And when it comes to helping young women achieve the highest goals in math and science, we know the Bryn Mawr model works."

With support from its partner institutions, over the next five years, Posse will continue to develop its STEM initiative to recruit cohorts from each of its program sites. There are currently STEM Posses enrolled at Brandeis University, Bryn Mawr College, Franklin & Marshall College, Texas A&M University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. ✨

# Posse Opens New Chapter in Houston, Texas

## Posse Houston Partners with Bryn Mawr, Carleton, Colby, Texas A&M, and UT Austin

The Posse Foundation has opened its ninth program site in Houston, Texas. Serving over 200,000 students, Houston is the seventh largest school district in the country.

Carleton College, Colby College, Texas A&M University and The University of Texas at Austin (UT) have signed on to recruit students from Houston. Additionally, longtime partner Bryn Mawr College, which has recruited Posses from Boston since 2000, has also partnered with Posse Houston, doubling the number of Posse Scholars it recruits each year. Texas A&M, which has signed on as a dual-city partner, will recruit specialized science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) Posses from Houston in addition to recruiting a traditional Posse from Atlanta.

"Texas A&M University is truly honored to become one of the first partners of Posse Houston, and we look forward to welcoming the inaugural class of Posse Scholars to

Aggieland next fall," says Texas

A&M President R. Bowen Loftin. "Both Texas A&M and The Posse Foundation share a similar goal of developing leaders of character, particularly those who come from diverse backgrounds. We see this

partnership—developing talented students in the critical areas of science, technology, engineering and math—as a tangible extension of Texas A&M's land-grant mission of serving our state and country."

"The Posse Foundation represents a novel and worthy concept in higher education and will be especially valuable at a large university like ours," says UT President William Powers Jr. "We expect

great things from these 10 Scholars and look forward to watching them develop into leaders at The University of Texas."

Posse is grateful for the generous support of the Houston-based Brown

Foundation, the Kresge Foundation and the Houston Endowment, which each provided \$300,000 to support the opening of the new site in Houston.

"We are so excited to bring the Posse program to the students of Houston and to launch the site with these incredible partnerships," says Posse Board Chair Jeff Ubben. "Posse is grateful to President

Loftin, President McAuliffe, President Poskanzer, President Powers and President Williams for their leadership and commitment, and we look forward to thriving partnerships that will create rewarding experiences for our Scholars for years to come." ✨



University of Texas at Austin President William Powers, Jr.



University of Texas at Austin President William Powers, Jr.

# Gala Honors Lafayette President Daniel H. Weiss



Daniel H. Weiss, the 16th president of Lafayette College.

On May 22, singing sensation Bruno Mars took the stage at Cipriani Wall Street in downtown Manhattan, offering an energetic benefit concert as part of The Posse Foundation's Annual Gala, An Evening of Stars. The annual event honors Posse partners and supporters whose leadership has made a significant impact at Posse, in the field of education, and in the lives of young people.

Among the honorees was outgoing Lafayette College President Daniel H. Weiss. During his tenure, President Weiss demonstrated the college's commitment to equity and excellence in higher education, doubling the Posse program by selecting Scholars from both New York City and Washington, D.C. The 12th Lafayette Posse from New York presented President Weiss with his Posse Star award.

"I was enormously impressed by the character of Posse's vision and the quality of the programs," said President Weiss. "My goal was to foster the program, to make sure the program was getting what it needed to thrive. It has been one of the great privileges of my life to be part of a community that is singularly committed to transforming the lives of young people."

Also honored with the Posse Star were Willis Group Holdings Non-Executive Chairman Joe Plumeri, Uniworld Group, Inc. and its CEO Monique L. Nelson (Vanderbilt University Posse alumna), and Gabrielle Horowitz-Prisco (Vanderbilt University Posse alumna), who is the director of the Correctional Association of New York's Juvenile Justice Project.

With nearly 800 guests—including 100 Posse alumni—the event raised \$2.1 million to support the Posse program. The gala was a success thanks to the support of many partners, including Comedy Central who generously produced special video presentations for each honoree. Posse is also grateful to 60 Minutes correspondent Lesley Stahl who emceed the gala for the 10th consecutive year and actor John Leguizamo who made a special appearance.\*

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 Boston University  
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 Bryn Mawr College  
 Bucknell University  
 Carleton College  
 Centre College  
 Colby College  
 The College of Wooster  
 Connecticut College  
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