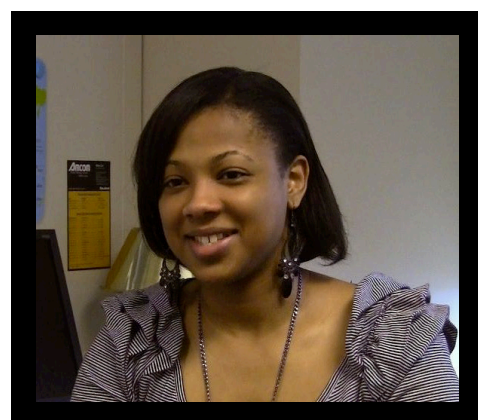




# alumni success stories: thinking globally

## ALLYCE PINCHBACK

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COUNCIL OF PITTSBURGH (WACP)  
LEADERS IN LEARNING, 2010**



Allyce Pinchback thinks globally. And as a Program Officer for The World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh (WACP), Allyce works with the region's public schools to advocate for students to think about their education from a global perspective as well.

"Students need to understand, you are no longer competing against the person in your class, you are competing against people from all over the world. Things are globalized now," says Allyce. "What do students need to succeed in a global society? Why is it important to study a language and study abroad? Why is it important to turn on the news and see what's happening in Libya, in Egypt, in China? We need to bring these issues to the forefront of education."

Allyce advocates for more international programs in schools and she also reaches out to students that she believes will benefit from the perspective and opportunity that a travel abroad program can provide to them. She herself was awarded a travel scholarship to Japan through The World Affairs Council's Global Travel Scholarship Program and she has now come full circle to administering the travel program for the WACP.

"But, it is one thing for me to say I've done these things, and it has changed my life. You need to give back and bring people along with you," says Allyce. "The mark of a successful person is to go back and take the next person with you. My biggest accomplishment has to be taking the next person with me."

Allyce would like to bring the entire Pittsburgh Public Schools system with her and she connected with the Coro Center for Civic Leadership's "Leaders in Learning" program to find out how to work with teachers and administrators to make her vision a reality.

She believes that international affairs education is not only crucial for young people looking to travel abroad, but crucial to making Pittsburgh a truly international city. She notes that exposing young people to other cultures creates an atmosphere for more tolerance of diversity and more interactions between people from different cultural backgrounds who are continuing to settle into our region.

The "Leaders in Learning" program opened doors for Allyce to bring her global message to our schools. She built a network of teachers and administrators to tap into and she was able to learn about the challenges of integrating some of the WACP's education programs in international affairs into school curriculum.

"We still find it challenging to get students to come to our programs, so I wanted to learn about some of the challenges teachers are facing in the classroom to try to gain a better perspective on how to work together," says Allyce. Through the support of the Heinz Endowments and other local foundations, organizations, and corporations, WACP has been able to offer more international affairs education and travel opportunities to students in Pittsburgh Public Schools.

"With these and other opportunities like the Pittsburgh Promise, we can start students down the path of early success. International education is a big part of opening up people's minds to diversity and to different cultures," says Allyce. "It's the reality of where the world is going, and top job candidates need language skills and travel experience to keep up with the rest of the world. We have to think bigger. We need to think globally and be global citizens."

Allyce's vision includes getting people to think outside the box, doing something different and changing the way we think about education and about the potential of every student.

"I'd like to see people look at things differently. Instead of saying if you do poorly on this test we know how many jails to build," says Allyce. "I want to see people say if you do well, we know how many people to send abroad or how many scholarships we need to set aside for college. The negative things do exist and we need to address that, but how do we reinforce the positive things instead of making everyone a statistic. That is what I would like to see."