
EXPLORING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

2008 - 2009

YOUTH FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES – SAN FRANCISCO GROUP

ANTHONY BUSHONG - *Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep*

Driven by a passion to improve the environment and stop global warming, Anthony models the importance of resourcefulness as he inspires his peers to take action. His leadership is expressed in his work as a DePaul Scholar, student council representative, and as a member of the cross-country and track and field teams. Anthony sees Exploring Leadership as an opportunity to learn more about group dynamics and facilitation.

DANIEL CAMPOS – *St. Ignatius College Prep*

Daniel values both tradition and diversity in his quest to develop his leadership skills. He appreciates the importance of cultural pride and familial relationship in finding solutions to problems of violence and drug abuse. In his work with his church, Daniel is viewed as a leader who is both resilient and helpful. Daniel plans to use his Exploring Leadership experience to enhance his communication skills and build his confidence.

JOSE CARRASCO – *St. Ignatius College Prep*

As a model of diligence and caring, Jose has spent many hours as a role model and tutor for the middle school students in his community. Described as honest and outspoken, Jose utilized his passion for diversity issues, in attending the Jesuit Secondary Education Association's Diversity Conference. He hopes to learn the mechanisms of business and how it functions in society.

CAROLINE DITTMANN – *Immaculate Conception Academy*

Caroline develops her leadership through involvement in various student clubs and organizations. Her activities cover a broad range of interests, including being a member of the junior varsity basketball team and president of her junior class. In addition to her leadership skills, Caroline brings to Exploring Leadership an appreciation for art and a passion for the environment.

SOFIA GAGO – *Balboa High School*

A great listener with the ability to problem solve, Sofia has an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. She has a multitude of interests that include business, design, and architecture. In addition to her studies, Sofia takes part in the "Out of Site" architecture program and is a dedicated member of the swim team. In the Exploring leadership program, Sofia intends to use her internship experience as a vehicle to build a more focused career goal.

MARCUS HE – *Gateway High School*

Marcus is a hardworking and caring young man who is always ready to lend a helping hand. He gained valuable experience as an intern for California State Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, and furthered his skills volunteering at the Sunset Recreation Center and Ortega Library. As an emerging leader, Marcus is interested in improving his communication skills and exploring the role of government in society.

ZHONGJIE (CHEN CHEN) HOU – *Lowell High School*

A committed and compassionate young man, Chen Chen values connection with others and inspires collaboration among those around him. With demonstrated leadership on the Lowell High School volleyball team and Key Club, he leads by encouragement and example. In his Coro experience, Chen Chen looks forward to utilizing his strengths in establishing a strong, professional network and gaining confidence in his public speaking skills.

BARBARA JIANG – *Thurgood Marshall Academic High School*

As a former class president and an active member of Thurgood Marshall's Gay Straight Alliance, Barbara is a committed leader who is both calm and mature. She demonstrates a profound interest in her school's climate and is driven in her pursuit to create inclusive, memorable experiences for her peers. Barbara hopes to go to either UC Berkeley or Cal Poly to pursue a master's degree in architectural design.

DE'ANTHONY JONES – *Mission High School*

Confident and active in his community, De'Anthony is a charismatic and resilient leader who is passionate about social justice issues. He is a member of Upward Bound, class president, and a volunteer for countless organizations and youth commissions. In his work with Coro, De'Anthony looks forward to working under pressure in preparation for a career in law or politics.

ARTHUR LAU – *Stuart Hall High School*

Taking initiative in his school community, Arthur commands the stage as both an actor and public speaker. This past January, Arthur was nominated to deliver the commencement speech at the National Young Leaders State Conference in San Jose. In addition to his oratory skills, Arthur is also an athlete. He competes on the varsity fencing team.

JENNIFER LEE – *Balboa High School*

An emerging leader among her peers, Jennifer has served her class as the student government president for two years. Honest and empathetic, Jennifer cares deeply about her community and actively contributes to her environment. As a member of her track and field team, Jennifer embraces both competition and challenge. She hopes her experience as a Coro Youth Fellow will help her further develop professional skills and career goals.

GABRIELA LINARES – *South San Francisco High School*

A gifted flutist and actor, "Gabi" has been in countless productions, singing and dancing her way toward leadership. She is also a leader on the sports field, playing third base for her junior varsity softball team. An avid volunteer with a talent for creative diplomacy, Gabi hopes to build a more conscious, considerate society.

NATASHA MARSTON – *Immaculate Conception High School*

A community-oriented student, Natasha is a committed member of her school's Ambassador's Club, junior varsity tennis team, and National Honor Society. In addition, Natasha is passionate about acting and plays numerous roles in her school play each year. As a Coro Youth Fellow, she hopes to build her professional skills in an effort to support her desire to improve the quality of education in the city of San Francisco.

TOAN (KELLY) NGUYEN – *George Washington High School*

Kelly knows the benefits of determination and hard work, having earned a spot on the varsity wrestling team as a freshman and by competing in the state tournament as a sophomore. Off the mats, Kelly continues to demonstrate leadership as an active member of the Japanese American Youth Society and Upward Bound. He brings a love of poetry and an enthusiastic leadership style to the Exploring Leadership Program.

SAMIRA NURU – *Mercy High School*

Samira is the junior class vice-president at Mercy. As a leader at her school, Samira is an avid volunteer and advocate for community harmony. She is interested in creating school culture that is inclusive and united. Samira looks forward to performing an in-depth analysis of her Coro internship field placement.

ZHOULEI (JANE) OU – *Lowell High School*

A thoughtful advocate for others, Jane mentors other immigrant youth through the Newcomer Transition Program. She further demonstrates her leadership abilities as a section leader for the Lowell Drum Corps and a member of the Junior ROTC. As a Coro Youth Fellow, Jane is excited about the opportunity of exploring leadership together with her peers.

IMANI-SHANI WALTON – *Mission High School*

Imani is a poised and dynamic student with a strong sense of responsibility for the well-being of her peers and the larger community. She is a member of both the cheerleading squad and an experienced peer mentor. She is a devoted advocate for youth in the foster care system and would like to use her Coro experience to further her ability to serve this community.

PRISCILLA YIP – *Lowell High School*

A driven and consistent leader, Priscilla is comfortable taking risks in finding ways to enhance community resources. She envisions creating a "Helping Those in Need Club" to distribute much needed supplies to countries in Africa. As an emerging leader, Priscilla is looking to refine her public speaking skills in an effort to become a more eloquent, powerful speaker.

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OMOTOKE ADEWALE – *Mt. Eden High School*

A deep thinker with a positive attitude, “Toke” enjoys expressing herself through poetry. Originally from Nigeria, she is a talented dancer who has performed in several concerts at Mt. Eden High. A mature, quick learner who embraces challenges, she ultimately plans to pursue a career as a child psychologist.

LATASHA BANKHEAD – *Mandela High School*

Raised in Oakland by her grandmother, LaTasha’s strong sense of loyalty to her family inspires her to strive to be an excellent student and leader. An outspoken and motivated people-person, she has served as a peer counselor and has participated in the track and field team at Mandela High. She plans to study journalism or film production in college.

NOEMI BRAVO-TORRES – *Envision Academy of Arts and Technology*

Noemi has demonstrated her commitment to improving public school education in Oakland by serving as a Youth Researcher and by leading student protests when the district shut down her old high school. A hard worker with a passion for photography, Noemi dreams of obtaining a Ph.D. in Psychology.

TYRELL CHERRY – *Castlemont High School*

Tyrell is a thoughtful, compassionate student who is dedicated to education and his family. A positive role model in his community, Tyrell has volunteered his time as a Math Mentor. He is working towards his dream of becoming a lawyer by being involved in the Youth Law Academy and participating in mock trial exercises.

ONGELL FERERIA – *San Leandro High School*

Ever since the age of seven, Ongell has dreamed of becoming a Marine Biologist. She is an outgoing and ambitious person who enjoys writing poetry and making jewelry. Described by her teacher as a “born leader,” Ongell has been involved in the AVID program at San Leandro High for three years.

FERNANDO GARCIA – *Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy*

An open-minded, critical thinker who enjoys trying new things, Fernando likes rock music, skateboarding, and cultivating his own unique personal style. An opinionated, yet modest person with excellent listening skills, he plans to major in political science at Yale University, and pursue a career in law so that he can help people in legal situations.

HANNAH GROODY – *Envision Academy of Arts and Technology*

Hannah is a diligent, reliable person who works well with others. She has volunteered at a Jewish Day Camp for the last three summers. She is proficient in sign language, and has a “natural talent” for peer counseling. Her creative endeavors include photography and writing short stories, and her aspiration is to become a psychotherapist.

MARISA HALL - *Lick-Wilmerding High School*

An artistic and dedicated student with a positive worldview, Marisa actively participates in the Black Student Union, a theater group, and a shelter for survivors of domestic violence. She is passionate about making healthy food more accessible to marginalized and under-privileged groups, and wants to study visual and performing arts or science at an east coast college.

HERNACIONA HENRY – *Mandela High School*

A dependable student leader with a strong sense of justice, Hernaciona has been actively involved in community service at Mandela High, serving as a conflict mediator and participant in the Martin Luther King Jr. Season of Service. Disciplined and focused on her goals, she is excited to be a Coro Youth fellow and aspires to attend UC Berkeley and pursue a career in the medical field.

DAVID JOSEPH-GOTEINER – *Lick-Wilmerding High School*

A fearless risk taker, David is motivated by art, politics, and community-building. As a Caucasian volunteer in the Chinatown Oral History Project, he is committed to building bridges across cultures. His hobbies include photography and building furniture from discarded traffic signs. As a Coro Youth Fellow, he hopes to work on a project that truly empowers the community.

NICK LAWRENCE – *Oakland Technical High School*

Nick has loved playing soccer since the age of 6, and has even helped coach the varsity soccer team at Oakland Tech. Energetic and good-natured, he overcame his fear of public speaking by participating in the Oases tutoring program. His goal is to attend UC Davis and pursue a career in the medical field.

TIFFANY PHU – *Skyline High School*

Tiffany is an insightful student who brings a global perspective to her involvement in several activities, which include being a Math Mentor, an Intern at the Chabot Space and Science Center, participating in the swim team and the Youth Advisory Board, and participating in a youth leadership program that educates teens about the consequences of tobacco use.

PRESCILLA RAMIREZ - *Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy*

An outgoing and diligent student, Prescilla is the CFO of Chocolate Rainbow, Inc. She is actively involved in La Raza Committee and her church. She loves dancing, singing, and motorcycles. She plans to attend college and pursue a career involving mathematics, engineering, or architecture.

SAMANTHA VAING – *Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory*

An energetic and detail-oriented student who loves working with children, Samantha has experience as a tutor and Food Bank volunteer. She participates in Sacred Heart's "I Have a Dream" program, and was chosen to attend a leadership conference in New York. She aspires to start an after-school program in her neighborhood of East Oakland.

DANIEL VAZQUEZ – *Oakland Technical High School*

Daniel was able to successfully overcome shyness through his involvement with B.A.M.N, an activist organization that mobilizes around social issues, such as immigrants' rights. An expressive student whose goal is to inspire others to become leaders, he enjoys soccer and graffiti. Daniel plans to study marine biology or engineering at UC Santa Cruz.