

CORO CENTER FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP

EXPLORING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

2006 SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

ASHLEY BENITEZ

June Jordan School for Equity – Class of 2008

Ashley started a student group on her school campus to educate peers about safer sex practices and ways in which teens can prevent sexually transmitted diseases. A sometimes reserved and quiet student, Ashley has made it a priority to participate more in classroom discussions to prepare herself for college and beyond. She hopes participating in Exploring Leadership will provide her with the leadership skills to not only be a strong speaker, but an active change-maker in her community.

BRITTANY S.L. BRODERICK

Gateway High School – Class of 2008

Brittany has long been involved with b.a.y. Fund, a program for first-generation college students that encourages participants to develop the decision-making skills, leadership ability and good judgment necessary to become successful adults. Energetic and sociable, Brittany has made strides in the 2005-2006 academic year; joining the drill team, earning strong grades and working to attend Spelman College or Clark Atlanta University. The oldest of six children, Brittany likes to write poetry and design clothes in her spare time.

MARTHA LORENA CARVAJAL

Balboa High School – Class of 2008

Proudly bilingual and adept at translating, Martha is fluent in both English and Spanish. She has a passion for cooking, although she notes that she still is perfecting her culinary repertoire. Academically, Martha wants to be the first in her family to attend college and plans to double major in Latin American history and psychology. An active member of JROTC, she has taken on leadership roles by tracking cadets' attendance and assisting in training new recruits. Martha is motivated to give back to her community.

NICHOLAS DIETZ

Stuart Hall High School – Class of 2008

An avid hiker and naturalist, Nicholas loves the outdoors and appreciates forest flora and fauna. He also is an active volunteer for various non-profits, including Project Homeless Connect and Community Links, and wants to bolster the community service program at Stuart Hall in the year ahead. President of the sophomore class and Co-Editor-in-Chief of his school newspaper, Nicholas hopes to form friendships and partnerships with the other Youth Fellows so they can all become better leaders.

FATIMA DURAN

Immaculate Conception Academy – Class of 2008

Fatima enjoys seeing new landscapes and meeting a wide array of people. Bilingual and interested in world travel, Fatima aims to learn about the professional world first-hand as an Exploring Leadership Youth Fellow so she can begin to take steps towards defining a college major. A dedicated runner on her school's cross-country team, Fatima credits her athletic participation with improving her discipline, confidence, time-management skills, and ability to communicate with diverse groups of people across her school community.

IKE EKEH

Galileo Academy – Class of 2008

Ike hopes that his experience in Exploring Leadership will allow him to take on advanced leadership roles at Galileo Academy. Ike has employment experience at his family-owned printing and copying shop. An active learner, Ike enrolled in a summer-time course at City College of San Francisco on Business and Entrepreneurship last summer and hopes to carry-on his father's entrepreneurial spirit. Ike's goal for his Coro experience is to learn how to better manage multiple priorities and become a more resourceful businessperson and leader.

CAITLIN FURNEY

Lowell High School -- Class of 2008

Caitlin recently participated in the Coming of Age Program, an experience designed for youth congregants at her church. Encouraged to explore the Tenderloin Neighborhood of San Francisco and to get a first-hand look at a neighborhood often known for its poverty, Caitlin interviewed homeless people and the working poor living there. The experience motivated her to volunteer for the Red Cross and the homeless shelter at her church. A swim team member at her school, Caitlin hopes to better address issues of teen stress and mental health.

FLORA WAR WAR KO

Abraham Lincoln High School – Class of 2008

Flora would like to attend a four-year university and attend medical school. Flora loves math and is also interested in learning more about business practices and the private sector. Originally from Burma, Flora has increasingly become more confident in the surroundings of her adopted home in the United States. She has volunteered at Laguna Honda hospital and at the San Francisco Zoo and is proud of her 150 hours of community service. Flora also is a member of her school's tennis team.

LINNA LA

George Washington High School – Class of 2008

Linna spends her spare time learning to play the guitar and mastering web-design software. Her short-term goal is to utilize the leadership skills she gains from the Exploring Leadership Program to make a positive impact in her school community. She also wants to attend U.C. Berkeley, learn Japanese, and pursue a career in the health field.

TERENCE LI

Mission High School – Class of 2008

A driven individual, Terence taught a computer art class to forty people for two weeks last summer. He participates on his school's wrestling team and is a member of the drama club, his school's beautification club, JROTC and is in a biology enrichment program. Terence is committed to his schoolwork and to becoming civically engaged. A resident of Hunter's Point, Terence envisions a safe, healthy and positive environment for his neighbors and wants to learn how to affect community change now and in the future.

AMANDA C. MARTIN

Mery High School -- Class of 2008

Amanda contributed a literary piece published in the *Anthology for Young Readers* in 2003. She is also a vocalist who has sung at various community events. A member of the Young Scholars Program and the *Anime* Club, Amanda aspires to become a doctor or biologist. Amanda sees Exploring Leadership as an opportunity to more articulately voice her opinions and better understand group dynamics.

ARIEL PEPPER

Urban High School – Class of 2008

Fueled by the loss of a friend to suicide when she was eight years old, Ariel is motivated to advocate for increased mental health resources for people in every socio-economic group. She is civically engaged, serving as a volunteer at local non-profits, a babysitter, a singer at the San Francisco Girls Chorus, a camp counselor and a member of various school clubs. Ariel aims to broaden her horizons as a leader.

RAMON SOLIS

Lowell High School – Class of 2008

Ramon has been active in the dramatic arts, singing and acting in several plays and musicals since beginning high school. He is also a guitarist, having trained formally for three years. A peer counselor, Ramon hopes that the Exploring Leadership Program will allow him to further develop his character and values, allowing him to deal effectively with complicated social and economic dilemmas. Ramon is also a member of the California Scholarship Federation and has work experience as a teacher's assistant at Lowell High School.

ANNA VIGNET

Lowell High School – Class of 2008

Anna is a gymnast, volunteer at KALX radio, the founder of her school's Rock Music Club and a member of the Spirit Committee. Her hobbies include photography and blogging critiques of television shows and music. She dreams of having a media career and looks forward to observing of how behind-the-scenes decisions are made by professionals working in television or print media.

ANTOINE WRIGHT, JR.

Stuart Hall High School – Class of 2008

A volunteer with Raising the Standard, a Friday-night program for children in the Fillmore district of San Francisco, Antoine acts as a mentor, role model and friend to other young people. Antoine also is an illustrator for Make It Public, Inc., a non-profit that educates parents about cross-cultural adoption as it specifically relates to African-American children. Antoine hopes Exploring Leadership will allow him to improve his time-management skills and prioritize his commitments so he can become a more effective leader.

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E X P L O R I N G L E A D E R S H I P P R O G R A M**2006 EAST BAY YOUTH FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES**

ADRIENNE M. CARTER

Bishop O'Dowd High School - Class of 2008

An aspiring doctor, Adrienne has worked at Red Cross Youth Services and was a counselor-in-training at a summer camp. She is committed to helping others and hopes to improve her interpersonal skills and confidence through the Exploring Leadership program. An athlete and dedicated volunteer for Boss Homeless Shelter and the Friends of Lake Merritt Clean-up Committee, Adrienne inspires her peers to work towards positive change.

AURORA CASTELLANOS

MetWest High School - Class of 2008

In the summer of 2005, Aurora participated in a program at Californians for Justice. This experience transformed the way she looks at her community and sparked in her a desire to stand up and fight for what she believes in. Through this experience, she helped to organize a rally against the California High School Exit Exam. Aurora served as a youth leader for Centro Legal de la Raza, participated in a ten-week workshop with the School of Unity and Liberation, and spent seven months as a youth organizer for Organize Da Bay.

GIANA TERESA CIROLIA

Berkeley High School - Class of 2008

Dedicated to youth health issues, Giana is a peer health educator at Berkeley High School, where she spreads knowledge about sexual health, drugs and alcohol, and bicycle and helmet safety. For the past year, she has also helped Health Initiatives for Youth plan a statewide health conference. Giana looks forward to the opportunity to collaborate with other passionate youth in Exploring Leadership.

LAMARRIA L. COLEMAN

Excel High at McClymonds Educational Complex - Class of 2008

A teacher who recommended Lamarria for Exploring Leadership wrote, "We see in her the seeds of leadership and attitudes that will develop a new culture within our student body." A cheerleader, participant in leadership groups, and a volunteer at her church, Lamarria is committed to using her skills to make changes in her community. She plans to become a lawyer and sees the Exploring Leadership program as a way to hone her skills and strengthen her voice.

IFEANYI EZEH

St. Joseph Notre Dame - Class of 2008

In 2002, Ifeanyi spent the summer in his home country of Nigeria and witnessed first hand the poverty and health issues affecting the nation. This experience was transformative for him; in the future he intends to get involved with international organizations that provide health care to children in Africa. Ifeanyi hopes that Exploring Leadership will help him to improve his communication skills and take on leadership roles at the Davis Street Family Resource Center where he has volunteered for two summers.

LIBBY FREEMAN

Piedmont High School - Class of 2008

A veteran of student government, skilled Lacrosse player and coach, and committed volunteer in the National Charity League, Libby is continuing to shape herself into a leader. She also has a passion and talent for music and has performed in Italy, Slovenia, Finland, Latvia, Estonia, China, and Hong Kong. She hopes that Exploring Leadership will help her to step out of her comfort zone and learn new leadership skills.

ANA GARCIA

Mandela High School - Class of 2008

Ana loves reading and writing and aspires to be a novelist or a teacher. She hopes to develop her public speaking skills as part of the Exploring Leadership Program and also learn techniques she can bring back to her school environment. A member of student government, she wants to see students manage large scale activities and initiate change.

DAVID O'HARA

Alameda High School - Class of 2008

David thinks a leader shares credit, motivates people to do their best and puts 100% effort into accomplishing goals. Hoping to live up to his vision of leadership, David applies the concepts he has learned at the West Wind Bok-Fu martial arts school to his life. Specifically, he visualizes success, practices regularly and gets inspired to move ahead by thinking of his teachers and friends. His proudest accomplishments include medaling at martial arts competitions and transforming himself from a shy child into a more confident teen.

NICOLE HUI

Newark Memorial High School - Class of 2008

Nicole plans to be the first in her family to attend college. A member of the Chinese Vietnamese Student Association and the Interact Club, she enjoys painting and creative writing. Having taken dance lessons for twelve years, Nicole enjoys performing in front of an audience. She believes strongly that while students face pressures to succeed in school and out-do their peers, young people also need to also look beyond academics and join school clubs and sports teams to create a healthy, holistic sense of self.

MIA HENDERSON-BONILLA

Holy Names High School - Class of 2008

Mia likes to learn through hands-on experience and weighs her options carefully before making decisions. As a budding leader who is a strong listener, she is concentrating on improving her organizational, planning and public speaking skills. Mia has been playing competitive volleyball since the third grade and interned last summer for BRIDGE Housing, a non-profit affordable housing developer in San Francisco. She aspires to be a veterinarian.

CAROLINE IWAMOTO

Albany High School - Class of 2008

Caroline's hobbies include playing the flute, cooking and singing. She has worked for the Albany Chamber of Commerce and for her family-owned business. A volunteer for the Albany Unified School District, she fundraised in the district's recent Phone-A-Thon. She is

hoping to learn more about the government and non-profit sectors while a Youth Fellow. She aspires to become a medical researcher and wants to save lives discovering ways to address deadly illnesses.

KARA MURRAY

Berkeley High School - Class of 2008

A future children's rights lawyer, Kara is a peer educator who presents on topics such as sexual health, bicycle safety and drug information to 6 – 9th graders. Also a youth leader at Health Initiatives for Youth, Kara designed activities for youth participants attending the organization's state-wide health conference. Kara, an articulate writer and editor for her school paper, wants to improve her community and hopes to learn skills at Coro that will make her a more effective advocate.

AI-VY LE

Oakland Technical High School - Class of 2008

Certified in CPR, fluent in Vietnamese, an artist and a member of an after-school program focusing on environmental science, Ai-Vy is a hard-worker who wants to become an ophthalmologist. Her hobbies include fashion and drawing. In defining leadership, Ai-Vy believes that a competent leader fosters an inclusive environment, listens well and effectively navigates between groups.

JUSTIN PHAM

Newark Memorial High School - Class of 2008

Justin is passionate about leadership and learning. He recently began taking more responsibility for his two younger siblings when his mother returned to the workforce. In helping his sisters with homework, he has learned to develop "patience, a student-teacher connection and mutual respect...qualities I will use throughout my life." As a result of his love for children, he desires to become a pediatrician in the future. Justin is also a member of his school basketball, volleyball and tennis teams.

ISRAEL SAUCEDO

Arroyo High School - Class of 2008

Israel has helped his family members change their eating habits when a relative was diagnosed with diabetes. In learning more about healthy nutrition and in supporting his family to make difficult modifications to their routine, he learned how to take initiative and direct change. A member of his school's baseball team and a lifeguard at a public swimming pool, Israel is motivated to attend college.

SARA STEINHOFF

Alameda High School – Class of 2008

Sara has developed a work ethic over the course of three different jobs in her community, including as a teacher's assistant and clerk. She applied to Exploring Leadership knowing that she would meet teens from various communities and have the opportunity to embrace different opportunities and boost her self-confidence. Sarah is interested in exploring a profession in the medical field.

ALAN TRAN

Skyline High School – Class of 2008

Working at a family restaurant in Walnut Creek, Alan has learned to manage various tasks and work with diverse groups of people. A volunteer in Oakland's Chinatown, Alan performs martial arts for seniors. He also enjoys drawing, writing poetry, rapping and singing in his school's choir. He plans to pursue a college major in performing arts.

DION TURNER

Oakland Technical High School - Class of 2008

Dion plans to be a sports agent and own his own business as an adult. Currently, he is active on his school's basketball team and has been identified as a potential team leader by his coach. In order to develop his leadership skills, Dion is active in Upward Bound, a college preparatory program, and is in Exploring Leadership to improve his public speaking and group facilitation skills.