

CORO NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

E X P L O R I N G L E A D E R S H I P 2005 PARTICIPANT INFORMATION (SAN FRANCISCO)

TIFFANY CHENG

Galileo Academy – Anticipated Graduation: 2007

Tiffany, a spirited and persistent individual, cares deeply about others. She has volunteered as a tutor for the International Institute of San Francisco's Youth Cares Program, working with English as a Second Language (ESL) students. She has also served as the Student Government Activities Chairperson, and is the lead stroke for her Galileo Celestial Dragons Dragon Boat team. Tiffany hopes to attend a four-year college and study either medicine or engineering.

ELIZABETH FORBES

Abraham Lincoln High School – Anticipated Graduation: June 2007

Elizabeth is excited to apply the skills and knowledge she will learn from Exploring Leadership to her life. She enjoys being physically active and particularly enjoys learning Tae Kwon Do. Elizabeth is the president of her high school's Middle Eastern Club, and has also served in a leadership capacity as a teacher's assistant at an art camp for elementary school students.

RYAN J. FRIAS

Lowell High School – Anticipated Graduation: June 2007

Ryan's passion for basketball, has not only provided him with skills and confidence on the court, but off the court, as well. The discipline and confidence he has gained from basketball have helped him achieve academically and succeed in other aspects of his life. Ryan has his Blackbelt in Tae Kwon Do and is a member of the Filipino American Club. He hopes that the experiences of Exploring Leadership will allow him to serve as a positive role model for other teenagers and give back to his community.

EDDISON LAI

George Washington High School – Anticipated Graduation: 2006

Fluent in Japanese and Cantonese, Eddison is an active member in the Chinese American Club. He has also volunteered his time as a teacher's assistant at a summer day camp. Eddison hopes to study business, law, or biotechnology in college and plans to start his own business one day. Eddison is eager to learn how political decisions are made and how these decisions affect his surroundings.

ODELIA LAO

Lowell High School – Anticipated Graduation: 2006

Odelia cares deeply about the future of youth in her surrounding community. She hopes to someday start a free mentoring program and support group for adolescents to talk about the problems they are facing and to meet new people. Odelia has taken a leadership role at her school through co-founding Hula Club and the Hapa Multi-Cultural Club, and serving as an officer of each club. She also holds the position of second chair of the flute section for the Lowell band.

SIMON LI

Thurgood Marshall High School – Anticipated Graduation: June 2006

Simon hopes that his experience in Exploring Leadership will allow him to carry out his obligation to help others in need. Simon has experience helping others through his volunteer work as a teacher's assistant. He loves to learn and is always up to the challenge of learning something new. Upon graduation from high school, Simon hopes to attend a college that will challenge him to do his best work.

IREEN MASSIS

Mercy High School – Anticipated Graduation: June 2006

Ireen's dream is to become a successful architect one day. She is active in the Arab community and is passionate about ending discrimination. Ireen hopes to take her Exploring Leadership summer experiences back to her home life as she is active in youth group and student council by serving as the junior class president, a peer mediator, and a Sunday school teacher.

RAKEE MATLOCK

June Jordan School of Equality – Anticipated Graduation: 2007

Rakee is deeply concerned about the lack of funding for education. He strongly believes that youth can impact policy decisions, and has demonstrated his commitment to public education by attending protests and speaking publicly about budget cuts impacting schools. Rakee has also worked as a camp counselor.

SUNUM MOBIN

Balboa High School – Anticipated Graduation: 2007

After graduating high school, Sunum would like to attend a University of California campus and major in a science-related field. Sunum has received recognition and scholarships for her talents in art and drawing and participated in the Youth Artists at Work internship program at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Her other hobbies include breakdancing and playing softball.

JANETH GUTIERREZ MORENO

Gateway High School – Anticipated Graduation: 2007

Janeth moved to the United States when she was eight years old and is fluent in English and Spanish. Her future career goal is to become a professional translator. Her short-term goal is to utilize the leadership skills she gains from the Exploring Leadership program to create a new dance team at her school that honors different ethnic traditions. Janeth currently volunteers with the B.A.Y. Fund, an afterschool program that helps young people be the first in their families to graduate from high school and attend college.

ALEX THIEN-CHUONG NGUYEN

Lincoln High School – Anticipated Graduation: 2006

A driven and dedicated individual, Alex enjoys a wide-array of hobbies and activities. He has been playing the violin for eight years, and also enjoys composing music. As a Museum Ambassador for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Alex enjoys the opportunity to introduce art to children and teach them to have a greater appreciation for museums. Alex hopes to attend a University of California college and then continue his education by attending law school.

HIEN NGUYEN

Raoul Wallenberg High School – Anticipated Graduation: June 2006

Hien moved to the United States from Vietnam four years ago and has already become an active member of her community. She has served as an intern at San Francisco City Hall for the Immigrant Rights Commission. She is also involved in many activities at Wallenberg including: the Math Club, Outdoor Club, Academic Decathlon, Amnesty Club and California Scholarship Federation. Hien aspires to be an author so that others may see the world through her eyes.

CHRISTINA OATFIELD

Lowell High School: -- Anticipated Graduation June 2006

As a vegetarian, Christina is interested in animal and environmental conservation and activism, along with health and education issues in her community. Christina hopes that her participation in Exploring Leadership will help her to build necessary skills and connect with others so that she can take action for the issues for which she is passionate. Christina's other varied activities include, being an active member of the Girl Scouts of America for nine years, playing and studying the flute for eight years, performing in Lowell High School's Hula Club.

LUKE PULASKI

St. Ignatius College Prep – Anticipated Graduation: 2006

Luke's interests and activities are varied and include sports, a passion for social justice issues and volunteer work. As a member of the St. Ignatius Track and Cross Country teams, he has been awarded "Most Inspirational" of his Cross Country team for two years in a row. Not only is Luke an athletic role model to his team, but he also serves as a role model by encouraging younger members of his team to be true to themselves and resist peer pressure. Luke is also a member of his high school Social Justice Club and has volunteered at soup kitchens and for political campaigns.

ROLANDO VASQUEZ

Wallenberg High School – Anticipated Graduation: 2006

Rolando is excited to participate in the Exploring Leadership program and looks forward to the opportunity to broaden his horizons. Rolando is passionate about writing and literature, and spends his spare time composing fiction and poetry. He hopes to make a career out of his passion, and would like to major in journalism or creative writing in college. In addition to his affinity for writing, Rolando is an active member of his high school cross country team, the Japanese Language Club, and Amnesty International.

JORDAN WONG

Lowell High School – Anticipated Graduation: June 2007

Jordan Wong has been able to develop his leadership and athletic skills as team captain of the Lowell Junior Varsity basketball team. In addition to his involvement with basketball, Jordan is also a member of the California Scholarship Federation and the Lowell High School Italian Club. He has volunteered for The Presidio Trust's "Save Native Plants" program and has worked as a front office clerk for an accounting firm.

MOSON WONG

George Washington High School – Anticipated Graduation: 2006

Moson dreams of making a difference in his community. It is his hope that the Exploring Leadership program will provide him with the skills necessary to take action to make changes within his school and community. Moson is currently a member of Drum Corps for the JROTC program; he plays snare drum with his team in competitions and parades. He is also an avid reader and has spent two years as a tutor for middle school students.

CORO NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

E X P L O R I N G L E A D E R S H I P 2005 PARTICIPANT INFORMATION (EAST BAY)

DOMINIQUE AIKENS

Oakland Technical High School – Anticipated Graduation: 2006

Dominique has worked as a teacher's aide and as a peer counselor at the Clarence Anderson Youth Home. She enjoys working with animals, rapping and mentoring youth. In the future, Dominique hopes to become a veterinarian. As a Youth Fellow, Dominique wants to learn how to step up, identify problems, and make a change.

DANIEL ARCE-YEE

Piedmont High School – Anticipated Graduation: 2006

Daniel comes to Exploring Leadership with considerable community service experience, ranging from counseling students with Youth Educators, distributing food to the homeless with the Key Club and reading to children with Community Reading Buddies. Daniel enjoys playing soccer, fishing, and running track. Through the Exploring Leadership internship, Daniel hopes to become more assertive and independent so that he can be the "gatekeeper" of what lies ahead.

LOURDES A. BERNAL

Gateway High School – Anticipated Graduation: 2007

Lourdes' participation at the Bay Area Youth Fund for Education significantly shaped her life by giving her confidence about her leadership and communication abilities. She believes that the most important issue facing youth today is gang activity. Lourdes hopes that Exploring Leadership will increase her confidence so that she can become a better person and be an example to others by making informed choices.

IMANI BRYANT

Oakland School for the Arts – Anticipated Graduation: June 2007

After high school, Imani intends to major in Theater Production and Design, Law or Medicine. Imani enjoys knitting and acting in her spare time. She worked as a secretary at a summer camp, and hopes to further develop her professional skills through an internship in the business sector. Imani plans to improve in the way she responds to stressful situations through Exploring Leadership.

ALEX D'AGOSTINO

Head-Royce School – Anticipated Graduation: June 2006

As an intern with KPFA and KQED's Forum, Alex was inspired by the power of radio and its ability to reach the public and provide factual information. He sees a future full of possibilities and plans to find a career that is interesting and allows him to help others. Alex enjoys hiking and backpacking, and he recently took up the piano. He sees Exploring Leadership as a catalyst for taking a more active role in his community.

CARRIE L. FLEMEISTER

Holy Names High School – Anticipated Graduation: 2007

An active member of her church, Carrie volunteered with the hot meal program and the Gospel Choir. She took a risk and tried out for her school's JV volleyball team last year. After a successful season, Carrie has a new appreciation for working hard as a team and being dependable. In the future, Carrie plans to pursue an education in Justice and Psychology. Exploring Leadership appeals to Carrie's desire to get to the heart of the major issues that affect youth.

KHALID HARPER

Encinal High School – Anticipated Graduation: 2007

While a student researcher with Youth in Focus, Khalid was exposed to issues of education and equity. Khalid hopes for an education system where all types of students reach their full potential and attain the skills they need. Khalid has a deep passion for basketball and plans to be a member of his school's nationally-recognized debate team next year. Khalid hopes Exploring Leadership will offer insight into the lives of other individuals and their interests.

KENNETH HOPKINS

Life Academy – Anticipated Graduation: June 2007

A natural at socializing, Kenneth balances his time between his friends, video games, dancing and volunteering. He is a youth researcher on education reform with Youth in Focus and CES National. Kenneth is concerned about the current state of education and the impact of budget cuts on the learning environment. Kenneth sees Exploring Leadership as an opportunity to learn about his community while exercising teamwork and leadership skills.

DOMINIQUE HUNTER

Gateway High School – Anticipated Graduation: June 2007

Both a poet and sports fan, Dominique spends most of her time writing, dancing and playing basketball. She plans to attend college, earn a degree in Business and Finance, and become a WNBA basketball player. Dominique's community service experience as a peer counselor for the Bayview Hunter's Point Foundation inspires her to look forward to learning about her community and how resources are distributed.

ALEX ISRAEL LAZO

Leadership High School – Anticipated Graduation: 2007

As an activist, student, tutor and guitarist, Alex has many career plans, such as to attend college and study political science or education. Because he is passionate about minority rights, Alex hopes that his experience in Exploring Leadership will help him become a better leader and advocate for his community.

ROLANDO RAMIREZ

Oakland Technical High School – Anticipated Graduation: 2006

Rolando is a highly motivated student and soccer player. His experience of moving from El Salvador to the United States has helped him appreciate the value of education and employment. He expects that Exploring Leadership will teach him more about what his community needs and what skills are needed in order to become an effective leader.

RENATO ROCHA

St. Joseph Notre Dame High School – Anticipated Graduation: 2007

Renato's passions include basketball, tutoring at Score Educational Center and student government. He plans to study Law or Psychology and to be the first in his family to obtain a PhD. Since the 5th grade, Renato has been part of student government. He hopes to use the skills, information and experiences obtained in Exploring Leadership as an effective executive board member of his class next year.

TITO RODRIGUEZ

Berkeley High School – Anticipated Graduation: June 2006

Tito was greatly inspired by a community service trip to Costa Rica. The opportunity to live with a local family and help build a medical clinic gave him first hand knowledge of how much can be accomplished when people pitch in and work cooperatively for the greater good. Tito loves to create and edit digital videos as well as take photographs with his manual camera. Tito expects the skills he develops through Exploring Leadership to improve his ability to present, explain, advocate and contribute to his community.

MELISSA SAECHAO

Life Academy High School: -- Anticipated Graduation June 2007

Melissa is deeply concerned about California's recent budget cuts in education. She has participated in public events to show her support for adequate education funding, and she would like to determine ways for youth to become more involved in the issue. Melissa is involved in student government. She also worked with a group of students to design and paint a mural at Life Academy.

CYNTHIA TRINH

Oakland Technical High School: -- Anticipated Graduation June 2006

Cynthia enjoys reading mystery novels and making scrap books. She hopes to study Medicine and become a military doctor. Her organizational and social skills were put to good use through volunteer work with Circle of Life. Cynthia thinks Exploring Leadership will develop the tools she needs to initiate and lead.

STEPHANIE VASQUEZ

Skyline High School – Anticipated Graduation: 2006

Stephanie enjoys social settings and engages in numerous activities in order to interact with her community. She is a member of *La Raza Unida* and the Friday Night Live mentoring clubs. In addition to that, she has served as a peer counselor for Heart Peer Education. Stephanie's other interests include swimming and boxing. She is enthusiastic about meeting new people through her Exploring Leadership experience.

CHUNG CHIN WONG

Oakland Technical High School – Anticipated Graduation: 2006

Chung Chin's goal is to become a lawyer or politician so that he can represent those who are under-represented in society and promote the interests and well-being of minority groups. His work experience as an office assistant at the Child Care Law Center provides him with real-life experience in the legal field. Chung Chin enjoys playing badminton and volunteering at both the Oakland Main Library and the Oakland Asian Branch Library.