

CORO CENTER FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP

EXPLORING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

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YOUTH FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES – SAN FRANCISCO GROUP

KAIMI BAILEY - *Mission High School*

A talented writer and a great listener with strong critical-thinking skills, Kaimi encourages and motivates her peers to succeed. As a Coro Youth Fellow, Kaimi aims to build confidence and hopes to help other teens from diverse backgrounds to build awareness about the effects of drugs on their communities.

DANICE DELOS SANTOS - *Phillip and Sala Burton High School*

Danice is a personable young woman with a genuine concern for the welfare of others. She has volunteered at UCSF and served as the Vice-President for the sophomore class at Burton. Danice has an interest in informing her peers about the effects of global warming and she hopes that her time with Coro will bolster her confidence and increase her knowledge and skill set.

MONICA GUERRA - *Balboa High School*

Monica is an emerging filmmaker with a strong passion for The Beatles. Active in school politics, Monica has served as an advocate for her peers at school and in the community. Motivated and outgoing, Monica has an interest in affecting change around the issues of racism and ignorance. As a participant in Coro, Monica hopes to learn tools to impact her community in a positive way.

WAYLAND HE - *Galileo High School*

Wayland is a self-reflective student with a strong sense of responsibility for the well-being of his peers and the larger community. Wayland plays baseball, creates media projects as a member of the film program SCREAM, and participates in the AVID program at Galileo. As a Coro Youth Fellow, he hopes to develop confidence in his leadership skills.

STEPHANIE LIN - *Mills High School*

An accomplished young woman, Stephanie plays the piano, varsity golf, and serves as a peer counselor at Mills High School. As a Coro Youth Fellow, Stephanie aims to gain valuable skills to assist her in developing collaborations in her community. Extremely determined and aware of the effects of societal issues on youth, Stephanie encourages her peers to step outside of their cliques and interact with other cultures.

COLLEEN MA - *Lincoln High School*

The co-founder and vice-President of Animal-Welfare, Colleen plans to pursue a career as a veterinarian. Already an accomplished leader, Colleen writes for the newspaper and serves as First Sergeant for JROTC at Lincoln High School. Colleen hopes her experience as a Coro Youth Fellow will help her to be more effective in her current leadership roles and lead to continued success in the future.

CORY MICKELS - *June Jordan School for Equity*

Confident and active in his school's community, Cory writes poetry, plays basketball and has participated in the League of Young Voters. Cory has mentored youth at the Boys and Girls Club, and has a keen interest in developing strategies to assist youth in obtaining practical life skills. He looks forward to his time as a Coro Youth Fellow, welcoming the exchange of different opinions and opportunities to be a decision-maker.

JACQUELINE MONCADA - *Gateway High School*

Jacqueline is a social justice advocate for her peers and the surrounding community. She has served as a mediator of conflicts between younger students and enjoys working as part of a team. An intellectually curious leader, Jacqueline understands the importance of education and looks forward to her participation in Coro as a catalyst for independence and increased confidence.

SORAYA OKUDA - *Lowell High School*

Soraya prides herself in being multi-lingual, speaking English, conversational Farsi, and currently learning Japanese and Italian. As a leader, she values listening to other people's opinions and incorporating everyone's ideas equally. As a Coro Youth Fellow, Soraya hopes to launch a hospital visitors program at her school, in which students can keep patients company and entertain them.

CLEVER PADILLA - *Mission High School.*

Responsible and self-reflective, Clever is a hardworking and risk-taking student. Originally from Peru, Clever currently works as a mentor at Everett Middle School and is an avid soccer player. As a Coro Youth Fellow, Clever hopes to start a soccer club for youth. He believes that this club would encourage its members to stay active and healthy and make intelligent choices.

JOSSELYN RECINOS - *The Bay School of San Francisco*

An extremely hardworking and community-oriented student, Josselyn is a committed tutor for Bay Fund, where she helps middle school students with their homework and reading skills. Josselyn is also involved in a Mission neighborhood organization called People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights.

HENNA SAWHNEY - *Metropolitan Arts and Technology High School*

An articulate speaker and leader, Henna is involved in her advisory's Community Action Project, school task force and Drama Club. She has also acted as her school yearbook's executive director, leading its photography and design components. As a Coro Youth Fellow, Henna is interested in launching a peer tutoring and counseling program at her school.

ARACELI TAMAYO-LEE - *Lowell High School*

Araceli has been class president for the past two years at Lowell High School, which has taught her incredible responsibility and organization. Interested in the effects of Global Warming, Araceli believes that if children are encouraged to be environmentally responsible now, they will grow up to be more responsible adults.

HAI CHI VU - *George Washington High School*

Originally from Vietnam, Hai Chi speaks four languages: Cantonese, Mandarin, English and Vietnamese. He is also currently studying French at school. Hai Chi is actively involved in his school's fencing team and community volunteering club. As a Coro Youth Fellow, he hopes to create a program in his neighborhood in which youth volunteers interact with senior citizens.

OSIRIS WALLS - *Metropolitan Arts and Technology High School*

An honest and articulate young man, Osiris has recently developed a passion for the performing arts. As a member of his school's Drama Club, Osiris has been encouraged to speak more often and be more outgoing. In his free time, he also enjoys keyboarding, reading and growing as an individual.

MICHAEL WANG - *George Washington High School*

An inquisitive learner, Michael was the sophomore class president at Washington. As a leader in his school, Michael believes that it is important to be organized, neat, friendly and responsible. He is a strong advocate of sharing opinions and ideas with his peers, and values other people's points of view as equals to his own.

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MUHAMMAD ASAAD - *MetWest High School*

Dedicated to taking positive risks in his life, Muhammad commuted twice weekly to San Francisco during his 9th grade year for the opportunity to intern with Bay Area Wilderness Training. Muhammad continued to seek out opportunities to learn outside of the classroom by participating in Diversity Works, a select summer program in Oakland designed to encourage youth to analyze and challenge racial oppression.

AUJANISEE BENNETT-JACKSON – *Leadership Public School - Oakland*

Aujanisee first learned the importance of leadership as president of her junior high school. Since then, she has been a leader in various ways, including serving as a peer counselor and playing softball for the Castlemont Knights. Aujanisee plans to found a group called Positive Teen Incorporated to support young teens facing peer pressure or any crisis.

DOMINIQUE CROSBY - *Oakland Unity High School*

Dominique has brought her passion for community service to organizations such as Golden Gate Child Development Center, Project Yes, the Oakland Youth Choir, and Bethel Baptist Church. She dreams of starting a business called "The Three Way Club," which will help youth build successful lives free from violence.

RAHEL GEBREGZIABHER - *Holy Names High School*

As a member of her student council, Rahel has learned to model leadership, be a team player, and motivate her peers to participate in school projects. She envisions founding a Female Empowerment Club, as well as a Green Team Club. She also plans to run for Vice President of her student council and ultimately become a doctor.

AWOT GHIRMAI - *The College Preparatory School*

An avid musician since the 3rd grade, Awot is proficient with the cello, piano, electric bass and stand-up bass. Awot brings to Exploring Leadership a sincere desire to empathize with those around him and challenge cultural assumptions. He has demonstrated this commitment through his recent participation in the People of Color Conference with students from throughout the United States and his local volunteer work with Men's Shelter.

JORGE LABASTIDA - *CPAA Fremont Federations*

An emerging leader among his peers, Jorge was recently asked to participate in an annual Upward Bound Leadership Conference at UC Davis. Jorge sees Exploring Leadership as an opportunity to transform his belief in the power of higher education into a community organization that will provide a concrete support network for low-income students who often lack access to educational resources and counsel.

PARKER MENZIMER - *Albany High School*

A gifted actor and vocalist, Parker has tested his artistic range through a variety of musicals, playing both lead and supporting roles in Albany high school and the Youth Musical Theatre Company productions. Parker hopes to learn the skills necessary to transform his love of creating music into a concrete musical forum for the local youth in his community to collaborate and combine their musical talents.

FRANCO NGUON - *McClymonds Educational Complex*

Franco has demonstrated a profound interest in promoting cultural harmony. Having already mastered Chinese and English, Franco pushed himself to learn Thai in order to build a more powerful bond with other members of his temple. He plans to develop a violence awareness/prevention program for young children that will promote cultural harmony and advocate alternative solutions to resolving community strife.

HOANGLAN NGUYEN – *Oakland Military Institute*

A fast learner who is not afraid to try new things, HoangLan is excited to be part of Exploring Leadership. She hopes that this experience will help her feel more comfortable with public speaking and more actively involved in her community. HoangLan sees obesity as an issue that negatively impacts many people in this country and she hopes to launch a cooking class in her high school that would encourage students to eat healthier food.

ANDREA NODAL - *Oakland Military Institute*

Andrea believes that leadership involves guiding people toward their own success. She has served as a peer tutor and as a platoon leader at her high school, Oakland Military Institute. She dreams of starting a community center in her neighborhood, to provide a constructive alternative to crime and violence for youth.

JAZMINE PHILLIPS

Holy Names High School

Jazmine has served as captain of her basketball team for two years. In this role, she leads by example to keep her teammates motivated and accountable. She looks forward to organizing a youth-led initiative to address violence, drugs and teen pregnancy that would seek funding and support from the City Council.

MICHELLE ROTHHAMMER-RUIZ - *St. Joseph Notre Dame*

A talented and dedicated athlete, Michelle is a member of both the varsity swim and soccer team. Michelle realizes the importance of community harmony. She volunteers at the Davis Street Resource Center and plans to use her Exploring Leadership experience to develop a community organization dedicated to tolerance and cultural exploration.

WENDY WU - *Oakland Military Institute*

As a platoon sergeant at Oakland Military Institute, Wendy has learned that leadership is a privilege that involves hard work and responsibility. Two recent visits to China have transformed her into a stronger and more independent person. Her participation in the Students' Conservation Association and Conservation Leadership Corps have shown her the beauty of nature, and she plans to use Coro tools to help preserve these inspiring scenes, as well as tackle other important social issues.

LIRIO ZEPEDA - *Hayward High School*

Described by one of her teachers as always having a “positive attitude” and an “uncompromised imagination,” Lirio seeks to be the first in her family to attend college. A dedicated participant in Upward Bound, Lirio has pledged to use Exploring Leadership as an opportunity to learn how to inspire her peers to push themselves beyond their limits and gain access to higher education.