



**KAUFFMAN
SCHOLARS, INC.**

COMMUNITY *Connection*

July/August 2006



Scholars Get a Slice of College Life This Summer

This summer Kauffman Scholars from Class One and Two had the chance to spend several days – or as much as a week – on a college campus through the KSI College Residential

Institute program. Scholars stayed in campus residence halls, participated in academic classes taught by college faculty, and enjoyed enrichment activities in the collegiate environment.

Seven colleges from three states participated in this year's College Residential Institute, including the following institutions: Central Missouri State University, Kansas State University, Missouri University, Missouri State University,

Northwest Missouri State University, University of Arkansas and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Scholars had the opportunity to study a wide variety of topics, from caves to rockets, and much more! Two examples of the projects the students were involved in at the various campuses took place at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Students engaged in the College of Engineering project learned about bridge design by building bridges out of pasta. Students participating in the Eleanor Mann School of Nursing class learned how to administer CPR, and had the opportunity to tour the Washington Regional Medical Center in Fayetteville.

Students attending each of the colleges participated in the program as Youth Leaders, sharing their firsthand experiences of college life with the Scholars.





A Message from Our President and CEO



It won't be long before the new school year is upon us. As a community, what can we do to improve the educational opportunities for our young people?

Parents and concerned adults can be very effective advocates for a more rigorous academic program, and Kauffman Scholars, Inc. is your partner in becoming strong supporters of a better education for your children. Why is this so important? Statistics today paint a bleak picture of the number of urban students — especially those not at the top of their class — who get a real opportunity to attend college. Only 26 percent of all students attending colleges and universities come from low-income families. And of those students, only six percent earn their undergraduate degrees.

One of the most pervasive problems in urban education is the problem of gaps — one is the gap between the standard of academic rigor in coursework available to urban students as contrasted with the more rigorous coursework often available to students outside the urban core. Now, Kauffman Scholars are involved in a program that is dedicated to assisting them in the realization of the goal of becoming college graduates. However, as you know, our students need the help of a "Scholar-centric network" — all those individuals who are engaged in making sure each child is receiving the best opportunities to be fully prepared to successfully make the leap from high school to college graduate. The support of parents, teachers, coaches, counselors, principals, pastors, priests, rabbis, and community

representatives — every concerned individual can make a difference.

I encourage parents to know your rights. You have the right — and, some would say the obligation — to keep track of your Scholar's progress in school. If your son or daughter voices concern about their ability to keep up, or conversely, about whether the coursework isn't difficult enough, you have the option to set up a meeting with their teachers, and learn more about what is actually being presented in the classroom. It's a good idea to talk regularly with your students about what they are studying and to take a look at the books they are bringing home. Also, whenever you are invited to a parent/teacher conference, or have the opportunity to join a parent advocacy group at your child's school, I encourage you to take it! Invite your Scholar's Academic and Life Coach to attend with you. It is likely to be one of the best investments of time you will ever make.

Helen Keller once said, "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do." As the new school year begins, let each of us pledge to work together to do all we can to create a brighter future for our young people.

Best Regards,

R. Stephen Green, Ed.D.
President & CEO

Pre-ACT Test for Class One Scholars

This summer, Scholars from Class One entered another phase of college preparation when they took the Pre-ACT Test. The pre-test is designed not only to help Scholars build confidence in their test-taking capabilities, but also as a formative assessment tool for KSI.

"This comes as a result of our partnership with The Princeton Review," said James McGirt, Kauffman Scholars Lead Academic Coach. "Representatives from their organization provided KSI with a new tool, so that we could develop the test ourselves. Consequently, we were

able to concentrate on areas that were a close fit with the material we've been covering."

Kauffman Scholars formed a multi-year partnership with The Princeton Review in March, 2006. The Princeton Review is a New York City-based company known for its test prep courses, education services, and books. Through the partnership, Kauffman Scholars provides selected students in the seventh through twelfth grades with a variety of Princeton Review services designed to help

"Pre-ACT Test" cont'd

Courtney Germany Receives First Vincent Legacy Award

Courtney Germany loves to dance. Now a thirteen year old about to enter the eighth grade at Rosedale Middle School, Courtney has been studying dance for nine years. Her dedication and persistence were recently recognized when she became the first recipient of a \$2,000 Vincent Legacy Award from the Starlight Theatre Foundation.

"This award will help me and my Mom with the costs of studying dance, which can be very expensive," said Courtney. "I love to study dance, and participate in competitions, and this will make it possible for me to continue to pursue my dream."

The Starlight Theatre Foundation announced the creation of the Vincent Legacy Award in February 2006. Local community leaders Greg and Rebecca Reid established the Vincent Legacy Scholarship and organized a \$50,000 endowment fund "to provide youth who show performing arts promise the opportunity to further refine and improve their skills. Professional instruction will be offered to students who otherwise might not be able to secure additional training."

This new scholarship opportunity is for minority youth in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade. The scholarship awards up to \$2,000 for performing arts instruction to the selected recipient. To be eligible to apply, students must maintain a minimum of a B grade level, have no unexcused school absences, and demonstrate an interest in community service.

Courtney learned of the opportunity through her school guidance counselor. Although there were several steps in the application process, Courtney and her Mom completed all the steps – her Mom filled out forms, and Courtney wrote an essay on why she was deserving of the scholarship. Finally, Courtney was one of a small group of finalists selected to audition at Starlight Theatre.



"The people at Kauffman Scholars encouraged me to follow through with the entire process," said Courtney. "Dr. Green was one of the people who wrote a letter of recommendation for me."

Courtney's dancing has brought her more than one award. Earlier this year, she received a Tremaine

Performance Scholarship that includes two weeks of intensive training in Los Angeles during the summer of 2007. Started by dancer Joe Tremaine, his dance conventions bring the most current jazz styles, teachers, and choreographers to sites on a national tour, along with some classes. The convention reaches about 30,000 dance students each year.

Later this summer, in July 2006, Courtney will travel to Orlando, Florida for the Tremaine Nationals. "It will be my first time in Orlando," said Courtney. "I'm excited, and my Mom and I will be living for a week at a hotel in Seaworld!"

"Pre-ACT Test" cont'd

them achieve their college aspirations, including formative assessments, college counseling and test preparation.

Each participating Scholar receives a total of 24 hours of preparation for the Pre-ACT test. The test delivers four formative assessments and serves a dual purpose: to measure student academic knowledge and to gauge the success of KSI after-school curriculum.

Research statistics show that when students prepare for college entrance exams with pre-testing, they learn to overcome test-taking anxiety, often one of the biggest barriers to success on exams. Pre-ACT programming will be offered again this fall.

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