

## KSI Staff



**R. Stephen Green**  
President & CEO



**Marcella Gladney Lee**  
Vice President /  
General Counsel



**Terry Gibson**  
Controller



**Pam Harris**  
Parent Engagement  
Specialist



**Manomay Malathip**  
Lead Life Coach/Scholar  
Engagement Specialist/  
KS Site Manager



**James McGirt**  
Lead Academic Coach- Math/  
MO Site Manager

### Life Coaches

Landon Mickens  
Claudia Vazquez-Puebla  
Will McDowell  
David Bryant  
Cedric Wesley  
Jaime Goring  
Sonrisa Rowh  
Michael Samuels  
Cynthia Robinson

### Academic Coaches

Norm Sedillo  
Jarius Jones  
April Flowers  
Marilu Perez  
Jennifer Ray  
  
Connie Morgan, Database Coordinator  
Karen Collins, Executive Administrative Assistant  
Sue Emslie, Administrative Assistant

### KSI Board of Directors

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R. Stephen Green  
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R. Stephen Green  
Carl Schramm  
John Tyler



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# Parent pulse

Parents Uniting Long-term for Scholar Excellence

## Upcoming

Please mark your calendars:

### Parent Trainings:

**CLASS 1 - PARENTS**

**Saturday, February 18, 2006**

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Penn Valley Community College  
Room HU0015

### Parent Trainings:

**CLASS 2 - PARENTS**

**Tuesday, February 7, 2006**

Donnelly College

Chapel

6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Thursday, February 23, 2006**

(NEW DATE)

Penn Valley Community College

CC502/CC503

6:30-8:30 p.m.

### Parent Teacher Conferences:

KCMO School District

**Thursday, February 9, 2006**

KCKS School District

**Wednesday, February 8, 2006**

**PARENT/SCHOLAR CONFERENCE**

**CANCELLED**-March 25, 2006

### Informational Meetings:

**CLASS 3**

**March 7, 9, 11, 14, 16, 21**



Enedina Wilbers

### New KSI Staff

Welcome! Enedina Wilbers has joined the KSI team. Her role will focus on providing communication support (verbal and written) to and acting as a liaison for our Spanish language families. Help me in welcoming Enedina to the KSI family. You can reach Enedina at 816-932-1154.

## Welcome 2006!

First of all let me begin by saying Happy New Year and welcoming you into the year 2006! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are ready to begin another great year. We are excited and pleased to present the second issue of Parent PULSE (Parents Uniting Long-Term for Scholar Excellence) to you. A lot has

happened since our last issue, and I would like to take this time to briefly update you on where we are.

We held our first Parent Meeting in September, 2005 with

an informational meeting to discuss your role and involvement in the KSI program. In October, 2005 our meetings discussed "How Does Your Scholar Learn: Exploring the Options" and "Gearing up for Parent-Teacher Conferences", as well as "What Should My Scholar be Learning in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade", then in November, a Parent workshop was held for Class 2 parents on the subject "Dealing with Bullies from Both Perspectives", while Class 1 parents took part in a worthwhile Community Service Project. Whew, I must say we've

been quite busy. Then finally, in December we discussed "How to Keep the Lines of Communication Open with your Scholar". Now that you know where we are, I have one question for you. Have you participated in most of the Parent Workshops thus far? I sure hope so.

Remember that you must attend and participate in at least 85% of the required activities.

participate in at least 85% of the required activities.

Parent meetings allow you the opportunity to meet and greet other parents that are in the program, and build strong, long and lasting friendships and relationships. This

definitely has its advantages and you will grow with and encourage other parents.

Now that I've up-dated you on events from last year, welcome to 2006. Remember if you have suggestions or ideas that would benefit our program or other parents, please share those with me. Your in-put and comments are very important to me. Now with all that being said, I'm excited about what's being planned for you in 2006 and I hope you are too. Welcome to 2006!



## A Message From Our President/CEO



James Baldwin once wrote, "Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until is faced." Without aggressive and intensive interventions, the current conditions are ripe for increased disparity between advantaged and disadvantaged students. We are faced with a number of very disturbing gaps that can and must be closed:

- **Teaching and Learning Gap:** The gap between the quality of teaching and learning in large urban school districts and that of suburban districts or parochial schools
- **Instructional Rigor Gap:** The gap in instructional rigor between advantaged families and disadvantaged families
- **Parent Engagement Gap:** The gap between parents who know how to assist and advocate for their child's education needs and parents who do not
- **Information Gap:** The gap between those who have access to information about the intricacies of the college-going process and those who do not
- **Achievement Gap:** The gap between those who perform well on the standards of measure used to determine access to course work or college and those who do not
- **High School Graduation Gap:** The gap between those who graduate from high school and those who dropout
- **College Access Gap:** The gap between those who gain access to institutions of higher education and those who do not gain access or have equal opportunity of access
- **College Persistence and Graduation Gap:** The gap between those who, upon gaining access, are able to persist and graduate from college and those who do not
- **Socio-economic Gap:** Hence, the gap between those who have financial stability and independence and those who have not

Recent research, however, has gone beyond merely exposing these disturbing gaps and inequities. This research has provided us with a blueprint for addressing these gaps and has revealed what must be done to face squarely the challenge of change necessary to reach and teach all students. One study by The American Council on Education's *Access and Persistence: 10 Years of Longitudinal Research on Student*, revealed the following:

- Moderate to high-risk students whose parents reported frequently discussing school-related matters were twice as likely to enroll in four-year colleges.
- When most or all of their high school friends planned to enroll in a four-year college, these students were four times as likely to enroll in college as those who had no friends planning to attend college.
- Students who received help filling out college applications or preparing for entrance exams were more likely to enroll than those who did not.
- Students who participated in high school outreach programs almost doubled their odds of enrolling in a four-year college

Kauffman Scholars, Inc. has pledged to discover, develop, and implement the research-proven best practices and strategies that will enable students to succeed socially and academically. As a result, we have incorporated many of the elements mentioned above in our work with our Scholars. With this support, our Scholars are more likely to realize their full potential and become productive citizens and contributing members to the Kansas City community and society at-large.

*R. Stephen Green*

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



Pam Harris,  
Parent Engagement Specialist

## Parent Engagement Specialist: *Thought for the Month*

### Creating a School and Home Connection

Scholars whose parents participate in their education, both in and out of the classroom, learn more effectively and are happier and more successful at school. Recent research shows that children have better report cards, greater self-esteem and a more successful future.

When parents attend a school event, they are sending a strong message that school is important and school and home are connected. It shows your child how much you care about his/her education. Take the time to be involved in your scholars education, you'll be glad you did.

## CLASS 1- COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

# What a Joy to Give Back!

On November 12, 2005 forty-seven of our Class 1 parents boarded a bus headed to the Operation Iraqi Children Warehouse in Kansas City, MO, where they helped People to People International assemble more than 1,800 school supply kits to help the children of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

Each kit contained one pair of blunt-end scissors, one 12-inch ruler with metric markings, 12 new pencils with erasers, one small pencil sharpener, one large eraser, one box of colored pencils, one package of notebook paper, one composition book, three folders with inside pockets and one zippered pencil bag.

Parents that participated in the Community Service Project felt it was a worthwhile experience and competitive too I might add. Here are some of the comments from Parents that participated in the event:

"How good it felt to give back to help someone else"

"Community Service and Teamwork is the key"

"Helping and Giving is a must"

"The Kauffman program is a blessing to me"

"It gives you a good feeling when you help others"

A HEARTY THANK YOU to all the parents who participated in this year's Community Service Project. By the way, Parent group #1 did win the competition for building the most kits, but Parent group #2 claims group #1 had more parents...YOU be the judge!

Hats off to both groups of parents for all your hard work and dedication to the project. We hope to see ALL parents participate in the up-coming April project. See you then!

## What can you do to prepare your Scholar for college?

### Helping Scholars Develop Positive Social Skills

Getting along with others is an important social skill for everyone, especially your scholars.

It may seem like common sense that children need to get along with others. However, nurturing positive social skills takes time and practice. Skills grow when children have ongoing and steady relationships with their parents, caregivers, teachers, and friends. These skills continue to develop and grow throughout their lives.

Research has shown that a child with positive social skills is more likely to succeed in school and in life. In knowing this,

Parents have to offer children socio-emotional support, display affection, offer appropriate power-sharing ideas and share similar interests and emotional needs with their child.

Parents are helping scholars employ cooperative social skills and problem-solving skills that promote love, fun, family cohesion and helps prepare them for college.

Think about your child and the social skills that he or she might have. Continue encouraging them through-out their middle and high school years, your encouragement and support will help once they enter college.

Presidents Day is Monday, February 20, 2006 There will be NO Afterschool Enrichment Academy on this day.

## LOST & FOUND

Nike jacket grey with a black and white stripe with the name Brian Luim inside (size M), left during our Community Service Project on November 12, 2005

Found Black Sunglasses by Renegade

A set of keys with 6 keys on the ring. One of the keys looks like it goes to a Toyota. Found at University Academy during the Orientation Session held in August, 2005

Lost at during Girls Lock-In on Dec. 9 & 10: SAMSUNG Cingular Cell Phone

## Parent Pulse:

*(Parents Uniting Long-Term for Scholar Excellence) Dedicated to Helping and Serving Parents of Kauffman Scholars*

The purpose of our newsletter is to communicate with Parents/Guardians regarding what is going on in the KSI program. Remember throughout the year, we will have an every other month newsletter that will have important dates, news, activities, up-coming parent trainings, program highlights, college prep tips and even a lost and found section. If you have things that you would like to share, please do so. Again welcome to Parent PULSE.