What is Willamette Academy’s Pathways Program?

Willamette Academy’s Pathways program connects Willamette University students to educational, professional and business opportunities for the purpose of providing local middle and high school students with expertise, guidance and support in their pursuit of a high school education and beyond.

In a fun learning environment, Willamette Academy will work one on one with university students to identify their unique attributes and connect them with volunteer opportunities at the academy— which will teach valuable skills and provide the tools needed for success after college.

Willamette Academy Class of 2013

Willamette Academy’s seventh graduating class, the class of 2013, is on its way to college. Last spring, Willamette Academy graduated 17 seniors who collectively applied to more than 40 schools as far away as University of California Berkeley to the south and University of Rochester to the east. At this year’s graduation ceremony, the commencement speech was given by Daniel P. Santos, associate dean for Student Affairs and Administration at the Willamette University College of Law. Brenda Rivera represented the graduating class as the senior speaker. Collectively, students are enrolled at colleges such as Oregon State University, Linfield College, University of Rochester and Willamette University. Willamette Academy students were awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships. We are very proud our students. Congratulations seniors.

“Volunteering at Willamette Academy gave me tools to confront real life experiences that I see from day to day in my life after college. It also provided me a space to share my experiences with students and families with very similar backgrounds to mine to demystify the concept of higher education. Willamette Academy will always have a special place in my heart because it’s an organization and support that I wish that I could have had through my journey as a first-generation college graduate.”

-Luis Guerra ’12
Each year, Willamette University students dedicate time to a variety of organizations in an effort to give back to the community, learn more about social issues, and educate themselves as whole people. Among the many organizations with which Willamette students have had the opportunity to work, Willamette Academy has consistently been one of the most rewarding experiences for our students. The opportunity for WU students to serve at Willamette Academy is unique in that it provides an exciting, collaborative space for college students to apply their academic work to the real world while working with young leaders from the Salem community. Willamette University students often find a love of education and a passion for teaching. Through tutoring and working directly with these high school and middle school students, Willamette students have the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with students and serve as mentors to a younger generation. This passion leads them in new directions, helping them discern their own future career and life paths.

Willamette University students contributed more than 3,000 hours of service to Willamette Academy during the 2012-13 academic year. The valuable experiences WU students share with Willamette Academy help shape their passion for working towards positive change in our society, the university, and within their own lives. "I am a sociology major who just graduated from Willamette, and I could not have done it without the Willamette Academy. The students I have worked with during the past year at the academy inspired, motivated and engaged me in too many ways to count. Again and again I am reminded that I can do more just by watching them. For example, watching the students show up Saturday mornings and own it as a time to learn, grow and work in a respectful manner as a group and individually gives me hope for the future. The staff were awesome as well! They are so caring to me. Our job is to help the students at the academy, but the staff took time out of their regular day to check in on me and make me feel at home. During the year, the amazing students and staff have encouraged me and given wonderful advice about my pursuit of a career in teaching. The academy has really impacted me this past year!"

-Marshall Curry ’13

**Job Descriptions**

Marketing and Donor Relations: Work to contact donors, create innovative new ways to fundraise, and develop marketing and publicity materials.

Assessment and Evaluation: Assist in tracking and analyses of students' performance indicators, evaluate and assess program components, and develop funding justifications and progress and outcome reports.

Family Program and Project Promise: Assist in planning and implementation of educational programming and carry out other service opportunities that include translating and interpreting English/Spanish.

Administrative Team: Work with a diverse array of people including students, families, community representatives and school officials. Additionally, volunteers perform office tasks that include filing, data entry, mailings, reports and communications. Volunteers will get the opportunity to see and learn about the inner workings of an educational nonprofit.

Special Events: Provide logistical support for academy-sponsored events. Additionally, volunteers will often assist in one-time occasions, resulting in limited time commitment.

Saturday Session: Serve as teaching assistants to instructional staff and facilitate small group activities on one or two Saturdays each month.

Tutors: Volunteers will work individually or in small groups with students to help students improve their knowledge and proficiency. Volunteers will be paired with students that best match the volunteers' ability and student needs.

Workshop Coordinator: Work with program staff to plan and facilitate workshops for students. Content may vary according to volunteers' individual passions and strengths.

**What Is Happening at the Academy?**

Willamette Academy Wins Silver in Statesman Journal Best Of

This year, Willamette Academy won 2nd place for nonprofits in the Statesman Journal's Best of the Mid-Valley campaign. Thank you for all your support and for voting for Willamette Academy as the second best nonprofit in the Mid-Valley! We are so proud to be honored among so many fantastic nonprofits and organizations.

**Project Promise**

Because Willamette Academy cannot accept all students who apply, Project Promise was created. Willamette Academy's new program is dedicated to increasing access to higher education by providing a series of workshops, seminars and clinics to local students and their families. Its purpose is to give more people the confidence, resources and skills to succeed on the path to college. In addition to reinforcing the message that every student is "college material," Project Promise will complement other college-readiness efforts. Please let us know if you are interested in helping with the program.

**New service learning course to be offered at Willamette University!**

Beginning in the fall 2013, Willamette University will partner with Willamette Academy to offer Willamette Academy Service Learning (WASL), an interdisciplinary service-learning course introducing students to the issues of educational access in the Salem-Keizer community. In this course, Willamette students will provide tutoring for Willamette Academy students, as well as develop professional skills such as marketing, grant writing and communication. The requirements for the course include attending one, 90-minute class and volunteering at Willamette Academy for at least four hours a week while keeping a journal of their experiences. Willamette Academy is excited about partnering with professor Linda Hauer and the Sociology Department to offer this new opportunity to reach out to the Willamette University student body. To participate in this course, students must be in good academic and behavioral standing at Willamette University and have the ability to serve as positive role models for Willamette Academy students. It is a half credit course that counts towards American Ethnic Studies, Latin American Studies, and Sociology majors/minors.

**Volunteer Quotes**

"Volunteering at the academy was probably one of the most fulfilling experiences I have had since attending Willamette University. Not only do you get a chance to work with youth, but you also gain a sense of pride seeing the students you've helped do well in school. Thinking back to the students I've worked with at the academy, just knowing that I have helped them get closer to their educational goals really brings me joy. Seeing the excitement in a student when they've finally understood a concept is really something special. Volunteering at the academy is a very fulfilling experience! I feel every Willamette student should get a chance at."

-Emma Lazo ’15

"Willamette Academy helped me develop professionally as a student in more ways than I will ever be able to recall. When I came in as a volunteer my sophomore year, I was only expecting to help out where I could and potentially impact the lives of the students we worked with. What I didn't know was that over the next three years the academy would not only change my career path, but also gave me the tools and skill sets I needed to be successful beyond college. At the academy I had the opportunity to do everything from administrative tasks to teaching in a classroom. To this day, people encounter are still in awe at my level of comfort in front of the classroom and owe it to the academy for giving me the chance to develop in that area. When I got my first job after college I thought I was going to be overwhelmed by all the deadlines, reports and meetings I would have to complete. However, I soon learned to manage all those things through my work at the academy. Two years after graduating from college, I still find myself recalling different situations I experienced at the academy and using the lessons I learned. I am very grateful for the staff and students who took the time to help me with my personal and professional development. I strongly encourage current Willamette students to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity as well. This is your chance to change lives while experiencing your own professional growth as well."

-Lucille Kituku ’11
Working at Willamette Academy was undoubtedly one of the best experiences I had at Willamette University because I was truly able to embody our school’s motto, “Not unto ourselves are we born.” Mentoring and serving our students brought so much joy into my life, and I will never forget the many memories and laughs I shared with the kiddos. Even if I was having a horrible day where everything was going wrong, the students at the academy could always lift my spirits and make me smile! I will also miss working with so many amazing, dedicated and hardworking staff as well because all of you made my job easy! Good luck to all of you in your future endeavors, and if you’re ever in Portland, you should stop by and say hi!

-Maka Chee ’13

Willamette Academy is the best place to volunteer and serve your community. In the academy, we serve more than the students that are making their college dreams come true one step at a time, we are also serving their families by providing them with knowledge about the constantly changing school system. Most importantly, as volunteers we serve as mentors to the students. We help them not only to choose their classes for the following year, we help them develop a proactive way of thinking by challenging them to become better people. As a volunteer, I feel very proud of the academy students. I see them grow every day as students and as people. I can see their effort, their need of success and their drive. It is amazing what one piece of advice, one tip and one chat does in the life of a student. Every day I volunteer at the academy, I realize that I am part of the positive impact in the future of the students, family and community. Let’s always remember that the students of today are the future of tomorrow, and wouldn’t you want to be involved in that process?

-Grecia Garcia ’16

Where You Can Find Us

Our offices, computer lab, and Academic Resource Center are located in the lower level of the Executive Building located on the corner of Cottage & Ferry St (240 Cottage Street SE, building #26 on the Campus Map)

We have an additional office and computer lab space at the Willamette Academy Annex, also located on the corner of Cottage and Ferry streets (195 Cottage Street SE, building #54 on the Campus Map).

Buffalo Wild Wings Benefit Nights

Join us for “Benefit Nights” the first three Mondays in October 11am-close, (7th,14th and 21st) at Buffalo Wild Wings! Bring your friends, watch a little football and have a great time!

15% of the evening proceeds will go to benefit Willamette Academy! We hope to see you in October at Buffalo Wild Wings (3892 Center St. Salem).

Free bus departing from chicken fountain every half hour from 4 until 9 PM!