Our New Eighth Grade Class

We are pleased and excited to introduce students in our new eighth-grade class! These students have great hopes and dreams of completing high school and obtaining their college degree. Check our website often to follow them on their path to success.

Willamette Academy and the Statesman Journal Partner for “Journey to Success”

Journey to Success is an online Statesman Journal blog that highlights our youth, their writing, poetry, art and more. Read our blog to learn about what it means to be a teenager in our community and to receive updates and information about Willamette Academy. The blog is found in the “Communities” and “Schools” sections, or you can use this link: community.statesmanjournal.com/blogs/wuajournos

“Statesman Journal Media’s partnership with Willamette Academy is a good fit because we’re both committed to improving the quality of life in our community.” — Bill Church, executive editor of the Statesman Journal

Believe in Me!

A Benefit for Willamette Academy

Friday, March 16th @ 5:00pm | The Grand Ballroom | Ticket Price: $25

Join us for an evening of Dinner, Student Presentations and More!

Register at willamette.edu/go/believe or call: 503-370-6085
From the Director

It was an exciting last few months at the Academy. Not only did all our seniors graduate from high school, but 100 percent of them went on to attend college this fall. This last spring, the Salem-Keizer School District received more than 400 applications from seventh graders who wanted to be a part of Willamette Academy. We are very proud of our new incoming class of 36 and are also greatly aware of the need in our community to provide additional resources to help our youth obtain the dream of a college education. Because there is such a great need for our program in our community, we created and implemented a new program called Project Promise. Through Project Promise, we are reaching out to even more students who need additional tools and resources to graduate from high school and continue on to college.

It is a privilege to be surrounded every day by kids determined to succeed. The students in both Willamette Academy and Project Promise are students who are historically underrepresented in colleges and universities in the United States. Our students have demonstrated “promise,” but they do not have resources at home to help them graduate from high school — partly because nearly 65 percent of our students’ parents have never attended high school themselves. Willamette Academy works to help local students by providing them with computers, text books, calculators, parent support and so much more in order to help them achieve their scholastic goals.

In this issue, I hope you will enjoy reading about our after-school program, Community of Respect for Everyone, as well as our new program; Project Promise. For the past decade, the Academy and your support have enabled local students to achieve their dream of graduating from high school and going on to college. To date, 99 percent of our Willamette Academy students have graduated from high school and 94 percent have enrolled in the college of their choice.

Thank you so much!
Michele Gray
Willamette Academy’s Community of Respect for Everyone (C.O.R.E)

The mission of Willamette Academy is firmly grounded in the belief that to achieve their full potential, all students must be encouraged to be themselves and feel safe, welcomed and valued. Willamette Academy actively strives to create a “community of respect” for all its members, with students and staff alike helping to reinforce our values of respect, inclusion and the celebration of each student’s contributions to our community.

At the start of their time at the Academy, students engage in a conversation in which they discuss their understanding of respect and devise a set of standards, or rules, to which they agree to hold themselves and others accountable. It’s no surprise that students know what respect looks like, and they can readily identify instances of disrespect and oppression. What’s unique about the Academy’s community is that each member commits to embodying his or her definition of respect and encourages others to do the same.

Talking about the Academy, one student illustrates the life-changing effects of a community grounded in respect: “When I tell people in the Academy things like, ‘I want to be governor of a state someday,’ I receive encouragement, promises of assistance and just all the positive things imaginable from a supportive community. When I say things like that to other people, even my teachers, I get laughter and negative comments...”

Having access to resources and opportunities are unquestionably valuable on the path to academic success. But at the Academy, we don’t stop there. Here, we work together to instill confidence, belief in oneself and community belonging. With resources and a community that supports and uplifts each member, students quickly come to realize that the sky is their only limit!
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 to 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)

Volunteering for Willamette Academy has given me a chance to give back to the Salem community and work together with local high school students to achieve their academic and personal goals. It is easy to be involved with many student run activities on campus, but working with Academy students has helped me become more service oriented and helped me understand the importance to give back to the community I am living in. I think all majors can relate to Willamette Academy because volunteers have the chance to tutor in everything from language arts to physics. Most importantly, and concerning relevance to different majors, the mission of social justice and empowering students who may not think they have the resources to go to college (or whatever else they want to do) contributes to a universal goal of mutual understanding and equal opportunity.

-Catie Plourde '12
Our Mission:
Willamette Academy at Willamette University is a free supplemental college preparation program funded by private gifts and donations. We serve students that are traditionally underrepresented in higher education from diverse and economically disadvantaged households within the Salem Keizer school district.

Our Goals:
Educate students to use analytical and critical thinking skills.

Inspire students to become the first in their family to attend college.

Empower students to serve as leaders in their schools and communities.

Our Results:
99% High School Graduation Rate

95% of our Graduates Attend College

Over $1 Million Dollars Achieved in Scholarships and Grants
Project Promise

On Nov, 21, 2011, scores of students, parents, community members and Willamette Academy staff gathered in Paulus Lecture Hall at Willamette University for the first informational meeting about Project Promise. Letters and e-mails had been sent across the district to schools and families announcing Willamette Academy's new outreach program. Few had dreamed of filling the University's largest lecture hall, but that's exactly what happened. "The turnout spoke volumes for both the need and the desire for a program like Project Promise in the Salem-Keizer community," said Joshua Bilbrew, Willamette Academy's program director.

Project Promise is the result of the Academy's continuing efforts to increase access to higher education for promising groups of students who have been historically underrepresented in colleges and universities in the United States. Those admitted into Project Promise as “Promise Scholars” benefit from a series of workshops, seminars and clinics that provide them and their families with essential resources to make attending college a reality. Students may choose from a variety of workshops, each one targeting a different aspect of college readiness. Themes include the basics of financial aid, applying for scholarships, choosing classes and understanding transcripts.

Thank you Donors!

It is because of the generosity of others that we were able to fulfill two great needs at the academy this past year. Our first need was to provide a hot lunch for our students during for our weekend and summer programs, which is essential to their academic success. Thanks to an anonymous donor, we were able to make this happen!

We were also the recipients of a $40,000 grant from Salem’s Downtown Rotary last spring, which enabled us to purchase new technology for the Academy — such as graphing calculators, lap top computers a new printer and much needed translation equipment. Thank you Salem Downtown Rotary!

LEAF Resource Team Member Spotlight!

**Zanshin Dojo**

Opened in 2010 by Rhonda and Logan Priollaud, Zanshin is a state-of-the-art martial arts school in Salem that incorporates traditional teaching methods with cutting edge equipment. Zanshin Dojo is dedicated to the teaching of martial arts, with the hope that students will learn the craft and one day become Zanshin instructors themselves. This last summer, the school worked with Willamette Academy students in teaching traditional, martial arts methods. “It’s a pleasure to introduce a new generation to the old tradition of Japanese martial arts,” — Priollaud, owner of Zanshin Dojo. For more information, visit the Priollauds’ website at Zanshinarts.com

**Saalfeld Griggs PC**

“Saalfeld Griggs PC has found its partnership with Willamette Academy extremely rewarding. By collaborating with one another, we found an excellent part-time employee who is mature, responsible and sincerely interested in the practice of law. We also had a chance to encourage a Willamette Academy student to strive toward greater academic success, and we were able to get to know an outstanding future leader for our community.” — Erich Paetsch, Lawyer at Saalfeld Griggs

**Marion Polk Food Share**

Willamette Academy would like to recognize and thank Marion Polk Food Share for providing after-school snacks for our kids. “Willamette Academy is a great asset in our community. It is one of those organizations that is truly addressing the root cause of hunger; poverty. It does this by providing a quality education to young people and by providing an opportunity to escape that poverty.” — Ron Hays, President of Marion Polk Food Share
The success of Willamette Academy depends upon a broad base of financial support which includes foundations, businesses, and individuals. Thank you donors for your commitment to Educating, Inspiring and Empowering the youth in our community to achieve higher education.

### LEAF Resource Team

Willamette Academy’s LEAF (Leaders Enriching the Academy’s Future) Resource Team is comprised of business partners who assist with job shadows, volunteer opportunities, supplies and other resources for our students. Please contact us if you are interested in becoming a LEAF Resource Team Member!

#### LEAF Resource Team Members

- Bookbyte
- CCTV
- Chipotle
- Clayhaus Ceramics
- Costco
- Croissant & Company
- Culture Shock Community Project
- Don Pancho Authentic Mexican Foods, Inc.
- Kraft Custom Construction
- La Hacienda Real
- Marion Polk Foodshare
- McMenamins Boons Treasury Olive Garden
- R. Bauer Insurance
- Reed Opera House
- Safeld Grigg PC
- SAIF Corporation
- Salem Chamber of Commerce
- SEDCOR
- Stampin’ Cat Studio
- Statesman Journal
- Steven D. Cowgill, DMD
- Third River Marketing & Web Design
- US Bank
- Zanshin Arts

### Empowering Leaders

- Mrs. Mari L. Bailey
- Don and Carol Anne Brown
- Friends of Willamette Academy
- Gannett Foundation
- Juan Young Trust
- Eric B. and Hollie Lindauer
- John and Sue Miller
- PGE Foundation
- Linda and Larry Pearmine
- The Oregon Community FNDN
- Safeco Foundation
- Salem Downtown Rotary
- The Salem Foundation
- Spirit Mountain Community Fund

### Inspiring Achievers

- Brandaw Family FNDN
- Roger and Sandra Colburn
- Ellen and Ami Eisenberg
- P. Roger Gillette
- James C. and Chane Griggs
- Dr. Lillian Iwatsuki
- Ron and Kathy Kelemen
- George & Laura Kreitzberg FNDN
- Don and Teresa Lulay
- Ms. Susan Morrow
- NW Natural
- Erich and Heather Paetsh
- Mr. Parviz Samiee
- Dr. Alex Sanchez
- Danny P. Santos
- Christine Sleet, Ph.D.
- Steve and Rachel Thorsett
- Union Bank
- US Bank
- Nancy Warfield
- Wells Fargo Bank
- The William S. Walton Trust

### “I Believe” Members (Monthly Giving)

- Judith E. Basker
- Mike Brickley
- Steve Brier
- Dan Craig
- Natalie Dunn
- Linda A. Flamenco
- Ramiro R. Flores
- Kristen Grainger
- Keith Grimm
- Luis Guerra
- Robert Minato
- Stephen Moe
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- Ronnie and Rachel Soto
- Nicholas B. Symmonds
- Ken and Judy VanOs dol
- Ms. Amy L. Erekson Varga
- Stacy S. West

### In Memory Of:

- David D. Molinoff
- Nacho Cordova

### Educating Scholars

- Mona Albabtain
- Allen Loving Trust
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- Kathy Bailey
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- Adam Torgerson
- Melinda Veliz
- Donna Wetter
- Sharon Wright
- Thomas and Joyce Zook
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Friday, March 16th @ 5:00pm | The Grand Ballroom | Ticket Price: $25

Save the Date!

HOW TO DONATE
To donate, fill out this form with your information, and place donation in an envelope.

Name
Address
City State ZIP
Phone
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Or donate online at: willamette.edu/academy

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