Congratulations 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. 

Willamette Academy’s PUENTES Family Program

Parents and Guardians Using Education & Networking to Empower Students

Families play a vital role in their student’s success in reaching college. The Family Program is specifically designed to empower the parents/guardians of Academy students to:

- advocate for their student’s academic needs
- support their educational goals
- bridge the generational gap that exists between them and their students

Our family program promotes a community and support network among families and serves as a bridge between students, their families and the Academy in the students’ pursuit of higher education. The program features workshops, college visits, and other opportunities that aim to support parents and guardians of college-bound students and is designed to address what parents need to know about their students’ needs at each grade level.
Staff and Volunteers...

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Joshua Bilbrew, Program Director

Instructional Staff
Rebecca Moore
Clarivel Moore-Zaa
Larkin Smith

Summer Staff and Volunteers
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Lori Cain, Instructor
Zachary Cairns
Ira Cuello
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Grecia Garcia
Kenia Hernandez
Amy Hiebert, Instructor
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Kristiana Meyer
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Barb Narkaus, Instructor
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Adrian Ochoa
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Yessenia Pineda
Rhonda Priollaud, Instructor
Laura Reid, Instructor
Chanel Suc
Guadalupe Torres
Thalia Vargas

Volunteer Staff
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Marley Bergen
Ashland Bernard
Julia Brand
Mason Brown
Zachary Cairns
Luís Cisneros
Nathan Combs
Rosa (Mabel) Cordova
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Mele Ana Kastner
Keisuke Kobayashi
Bailey Kray
Hannah Leslie
Christina Luedtke
Andrew Martinez
Jacob Murray
Tania Ontiveros
Kendra Oxman
Natasha Parekh
Isaura (Isa) Pena
Chad Pollard
Patricia (Gabi) Rasmussen
Stephanie (Steffi) Rice
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Juan Ramos
Sarai Rivas
Lauren Roberts
Hope Samiee
Kendra Schmal
Guadalupe Torres
Thalia Varga

Willamette Academy Community Council
Willamette Academy’s Community Council is comprised of community volunteers who are responsible for cultivating new partnerships for the Academy through networking, resource collaboration and education. Community Council members support the mission of Willamette Academy and provide expert advice and assistance to the staff in a voluntary, consultative capacity.

Representative Brian Clem
Tristan Collins
Brianne Dávila
Emily Drew
Tyler Gilmore
Steve and Mary Ickes
Ronald Kelemen
Teresa Lukay
Rebecca Moore
Irvin Navarro
Don Negri
Delia Olmos-Garcia
Joel Osborn
Peter Otto
Erich Paetsch
Linda Pearmine
Dr. Alex A. Sanchez
Danny Santos
Cathy Tilley
Linda Wooters
Megan Ybarra

Thank you for all you do!
Our Mission

Willamette Academy reaches out to historically underrepresented communities by empowering youth who have the desire and potential to advance to higher education. Our academic program is designed to address a number of factors that may discourage certain students from attending college or otherwise impede their academic progress. We are committed to helping our students achieve at a level that will enable them to attend the four-year college or university of their choice.

Our Students

Willamette Academy admits students when they are enrolled in seventh grade in the Salem-Keizer area. The admissions committee considers several factors, including, but not limited to, income, family history, interview and recommendations. The students we admit must demonstrate academic potential and have an ambition to attend a four-year institution of higher education. A majority of our students will be the first in their family to attend college.

Our Program

To carry out the mission and accomplish its goals, the Academy’s support centers on three interrelated programs, considered to be its backbone or pillars. These are:

• Ongoing academic support and tracking, with particular attention paid to college-preparatory skills including those pertaining to writing, reading, math, science and technology;

• Family and school support that promotes the participation of parents, teachers and counselors in students’ academic lives; and

• Support and assistance in the college application process and obtaining financial aid.

Additional Programs at Willamette Academy

Project Promise: Project Promise is the result of the Academy’s continuing efforts to increase access to higher education for promising students who have been traditionally underrepresented at colleges and universities in the United States. Those admitted “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.

Pathways: 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.

Alumni Connect: Alumni Connect is designed to provide communication and networking for Willamette Academy graduates. Even after graduation, alumni can continue to connect and access to valuable resources at Willamette Academy which include; college advice and assistance, scholarship information, employment opportunities, and attend networking events.
Bonneville Dam Science Trip

Students starting their third and fourth years in Willamette Academy had the opportunity to visit Bonneville Dam during their summer camp. The students took a tour of the dam, and were able to see where a large part of our electricity is made. They were also able to look at a fish ladder and learn the importance of the ladder for the conservation of fish. It was fun for the students to learn about all the different steps that are involved in the making of electricity; from the spinning of large amounts of water in turbines, all the way to a switch lighting a light bulb.

Newport Aquarium Overnight Stay

Thanks to a generous donation, incoming seniors of Willamette Academy took an overnight trip to the Newport Aquarium. During their stay, students were able to learn about the different types of sea creatures and sea life and were able to actually touch some of the sea life; for example, sea stars and sea anemones. For many of the students, this was the first time they had ever been to an aquarium. There was excitement and talk late into the night as they slept in the aquarium under the sharks and other sea life.

Summer 2013!

A few highlights...

Marion Polk Food Share Youth Farm Excursion

Academy students also took another field trip in the summer to Marion Polk Food Share’s (MPFS) Youth Farm which is located at the School for the Deaf. The Youth Farm is a 2 acre farm that produces fresh veggies and fruits for the various programs that MPFS serves. Our students worked on the farm weeding and watering to ensure a successful harvest. MPFS has continued to be an important partner for Willamette Academy helping to provide healthy after school snacks for the students.

Zena Farm Field Trip

During the summer Willamette Academy students headed out in the early morning fog for an amazing field trip. Students arrived at Willamette’s beautiful Zena Farm and Forest for a breakfast made with fresh berries and veggies from the Saturday Market. Students participated in classes that are part of a series called College Health, Eating, and Wellness (CHEW). CHEW’s goal was to familiarize Academy students about meal planning and healthy cooking in order to prepare them for cooking their own meals at college.
Save the Date! Upcoming Events and Benefits!

We hope to see you at our upcoming events and benefits! For more information contact Michele Gray,

mgray@willamette.edu

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).

Open House and Student Art Show

Visit us on Sunday, Oct. 13, 11AM to 1PM at our Annex location, 195 Cottage St. NE, for a student art show and open house. View art work created through our Creative Minds Program, visit with students and take a tour.

“Believe in Me” Annual Benefit - Friday, March 14, 2014

Join us for our annual “Believe in Me” benefit and enjoy an evening of student success, stories, dinner, entertainment and more! This year it will be held at Willamette University, Cat Cavern. 6-9PM
You can GIVE our students an opportunity in life....

You can RECEIVE income for life

Did you know you could contribute to Willamette Academy and receive income for life from Willamette University? “Life-income plans” are a strategic and sophisticated way to support our students and provide for yourself and your family in return. Willamette University has offered life-income plans for more than forty years, and hundreds of donors have taken advantage of our programs.

For example, Willamette University offers charitable gift annuities that pay guaranteed income for as long as the donor (and/or another loved one) lives. To illustrate, assume the donor is age 65 and wants a $10,000 annuity that would pay as long as she lives. Based on the donor’s age, Willamette would pay the donor $470/year ($39.17/month). The bulk of the payments (72%) would be tax free to the donor. And the donor would receive a current income tax deduction of $3,219. And if the donor funded the annuity with appreciated stock or other property, she would avoid capital gains tax. This really is a win-win arrangement.

A gift annuity is just one example of what is possible. There are many rewarding ways to tailor life-income plans to further your family’s financial security and make an impact on Willamette Academy’s future. For more information, please contact Steve Brier, Associate Vice President for Gift Planning, at 503.370.6022 or sbrier@willamette.edu. All inquiries are strictly confidential.


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Brandaw Family Foundation
CB Two Architects
Charlotte Martin Foundation
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George and Laura Kreitzberg Foundation
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Salem Association of Realtors Community Fund
Salem Foundation
Spirit Mountain Community Fund
US Bancorp Foundation
Verizon Foundation
Walton Charitable Trust

Thank you to our Senior Summer Dinner Hosts and Sponsors!

We had a great time!

Buffalo Wild Wings
Joel Osborn- Bank of America
Megan Ybarra
Olive Garden

Danny Santos
Arminda Lathrop and Peter Miller
Sue Corner and PEO
Ron Kelemen

Michael and Linda Wooters
Red Robin
Eric Paetsch
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.

September 2012-August 2013

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Donna and Ralph Wetter
Charles and Ellen Weyant
Tom and Patricia Winkler
Michael and Linda Wooters
Megan Ybarra
Doug and Jamie Zielinski


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