



Educate. Inspire. Empower.

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2011

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

Statesman Journal
StatesmanJournal.com

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



Educate. *Inspire.* Empower.

Community Council

Willamette Academy’s Community Council is comprised of community volunteers who have partnered to cultivate business and individual relationships for the academy through networking, resource collaboration and education. If you are interested in becoming a Community Council Member or if you would like to learn about how to become involved with Willamette Academy call: 503-370-6085 or email Michele Gray at mgray@willamette.edu

Chane Griggs
Oregon Department of Corrections

Cathy Tilley
Salem Keizer Schools

Gagan Kaur
Union Bank

Amy VanCleave
Express Employment Professionals

Teresa Lulay
State Farm Insurance

Linda Wooters
Gerry’s Frankly Speaking, Inc.

Peter Otto
Willamette University

Megan Ybarra
Willamette University

Advisory Council

Representative Brian Clem
Salem – District 21

Don Negri
Willamette University

Margarita Gutierrez
Willamette Academy Graduate

Erich Paetsch
Saalfeld Griggs PC

Ronald Kelemen
The H Group, Inc.

Linda Pearmine
Pearmine Farms

Ronnie Soto
Wells Fargo Advisors

Dr. Alex Sanchez
Oregon State University

Daniel Santos
Willamette University

Eric Lindauer
Willamette University Board of Trustee’s
The Law Office of Eric Lindauer

Administrative Staff

Michele Gray - Executive Director

Joshua Billbrew - Program Director

Certified Instructional Staff

Larkin Smith - Instructor
Rebecca Moore – Curriculum Coordinator

Clarivel Moore-Translator

Office Support Staff

Shelby Bailey

David Kebekol

Student Support Staff

Margarita Gutierrez ‘12
Kendra Schmal ‘13
Danielle Leverage ‘12

Annie Fidler ‘12
Delia Olmos-Garcia ‘14
Sarai Rivas ‘14

Volunteer Staff

Reinaldo Ayala
Deanna Choy
Jose Cortez
Joe Donovan
Emily Drew
Conor Foley
Blanca Gutierrez
Jonathan Harwell
Maria D. Hernandez
Faith Kebekol
Emma Lazo
Christian Liu

Elisabeth Maiano
Violeta Martin
Kristiana Meyer
Kelsey Muller
Alexandria Parsagian
Nathaniel Quinn
Emmanuel Rodriguez
Cassandra Ross
Diana Sapera
Joslin Schultz
Reily Schultz
Martha Sonato

Janni Sun
Sarah Tapp
Jillian Toda
Matthew Tom
Lauren Tompkins
Lauren Travis
Justin Uegawa
Brenda Ulloa
Jaime Venegas
Eve Wiggins

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!



Willamette Academy Educates, Inspires and Empowers WU Students!

During the fall semester, over fifty Willamette University students spent their time volunteering and working at Willamette Academy. The time and energy Willamette University students put into the Academy are crucial elements for the Academy's continued success. Over the fall semester, the Willamette students helped with many important tasks, including filing, data entry, supervising and/or leading workshops, and tutoring.

Aside from the numerous hours Willamette students volunteer for the Academy's after school program, they are also active and vital members of the Academy's staff, participating in staff trainings, helping out during monthly Saturday Sessions, and supporting administrative staff during family workshops and meetings. In addition to volunteering in multiple roles, Willamette students are also incredibly valuable to the Academy in their work as Academic Mentors and Academic Support Program Assistants. Willamette students keep the Academic Program running smoothly by helping to supervise, schedule and train volunteers. Such dedication has proven to be beneficial to Willamette University students in terms of their retention at Willamette as well as their volunteer hours and experience. Thank you Willamette University students!

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 Priollauid, 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," — Priollauid , owner of Zanshin Dojo. For more information, visit the Priollauids' 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



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

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.

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 Paetsch
 Mr. Parviz Samiee
 Dr. Alex Sanchez
 Danny P. Santos
 Christine Sleeter, 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
 Mr. Erik J. Schmidt
 Ronnie and Rachel Soto
 Nicholas B. Symmonds
 Ken and Judy VanOsdol
 Ms. Amy L. Erekson Varga
 Stacy S. West

In Memory Of:

David D. Molinoff
 Nacho Cordova

Educating Scholars

Mona Albabtain
 Allen Loving Trust
 Ricardo Baez
 Kathy Bailey
 Richard Brady
 John Burt and Debbie McCune
 Irma Dash
 Ron and Renee Campbell
 Phillip and Maureen Caudill
 David and V.L. Cozart
 Roger and Sandra Colburn
 Dr. Marion Dearman
 Mrs. Sharon Dearman

Prof. Emily Drew
 First Call Home Health
 Fitzmaurise Fertilizer, Inc.
 Philip and Erin Hanni
 Teresa Hudkins
 Harvey Gail
 A Brian Gard
 Paul and Barb Gehlar
 Representative Vic Gilliam
 Thomas E. Glass, Ph.D.
 Larry Gray
 Elysabeth Hall
 Ron and Linda Hays
 Philip and Erin Hanni
 Huggins Insurance

Art and Mary James
 Valerie Keever
 Tristan Knutson-Lombado
 Susan Lindauer
 Roxanne Livingston
 Rev. Margo Maris
 Bob and Lisa Martinsson
 Dr. Dawnn R. McWatters
 Dr. Melissa Michaux
 Frank and Catherine Miller
 Allan and Joshlene Pollock
 Dr. Miller and Ms. Wenzel
 Everett J. Mozell, M.D.
 Don and Kristi Negri
 Tim Nissen & Pam Rimmer

David and Rebekah Rigsby
 Nan Rittall
 Salem Electric
 South Salem Rotary
 Sarah Schriver
 Dan and Karen Sewell
 Bruce Stefanik
 Adam Torgerson
 Melinda Veliz
 Donna Wetter
 Sharon Wright
 Thomas and Joyce Zook



900 State Street
Salem, OR 97301

willamette.edu/academy

Believe in Me!
A Benefit for Willamette Academy
Friday, March 16th @ 5:00pm | The Grand Ballroom | Ticket Price: \$25

Save the Date!



WILLAMETTE
ACADEMY



HOW TO DONATE

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

Or donate online at: willamette.edu/academy

Name _____

My tax deductible donation is enclosed: \$ _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Please make checks payable to **Willamette Academy** and mail to:

Phone _____

Willamette Academy
900 State St.
Salem, OR 97301

Email _____

Donate Online @ willamette.edu/academy