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# RAINIER SCHOLARS

## PROFILE 2007-2008

Rainier Scholars cultivates the academic potential of talented and motivated young scholars from ethnic minority backgrounds. By offering access to exceptional educational opportunities and ongoing comprehensive support to our scholars, we work to increase their college graduation rates and to develop new generations of leaders.

- Founded in 2001, Rainier Scholars has earned a reputation for enrolling and retaining high-achieving students of color from the greater Seattle area. Through participation in the 11-year program, our students learn how to be more effective consumers of their education and stronger leaders within any group. They become confident in their right to receive a quality education. The result is a community that values not only education, but perseverance, integrity and courage.
- Each year, we add a cohort of 50 to 60 students to the Rainier Scholars family; at capacity, in 2013, we will serve approximately **550 students** in our 11-year program cycle.
- During the final quarter of 2006-2007, 68% of our Scholars earned a 3.0 GPA or above in their core classes **with no grade below a B-**.
- Next fall, our first group of 12th graders will be applying to college. RS is committed to securing opportunities for the Scholars to visit campuses nationwide; so far, **our juniors have already been selected to participate in highly selective recruitment programs at Williams College and Amherst College.**
- The interests of our Scholars are diverse. In addition to the college programs listed above, in the past year alone, our students have also participated in programs sponsored by the following organizations/schools/businesses:

*Bio Expo-Northwest Association  
of Biomedical Research*

*Davis, Wright & Tremaine*

*Future of the Law Institute*

*Interlochen*

*Johns Hopkins CTY*

*Key Club International*

*Lakeside Global Service  
Learning*

*League of Education Voters*

*One World Now*

*PEMCO*

*Phillips Academy Andover*

*Phillips Exeter Academy*

*Swedish Medical Center*

*Technology Access Foundation*

*University of Washington U-DOC*

*Youth in Focus*



- We currently serve 277 students—from 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 11<sup>th</sup> grade—all of whom are students of color and many of whom will be the first in their families to earn a college degree.
- Our current students attend some of Seattle's top schools and the number of Scholars attending boarding schools increases each year. At present, five Scholars attend boarding schools around the country.
- In 2007-08, 98% of our 6<sup>th</sup> graders will matriculate at top private schools or within the top-track programs of the Seattle Public Schools.
- During the summer of 2007, 15 Scholars participated in the RS Internship Program. These students learned job skills as staff members of several of Seattle's most well-known & respected businesses and organizations.
- In 2006-2007, 56 Scholars attended at least one session of the RS Leadership Development Retreats where they studied case studies involving leadership and learned more about their personal leadership styles.

### **Student Enrollment as of September 2007 (not comprehensive):**

<i>Bush School—11</i>	<i>Northwest School—9</i>	<i>Seattle Public Schools</i>
<i>Cate School—1</i>	<i>O'Dea—4</i>	▪ <i>Franklin HS—8</i>
<i>Explorer West—4</i>	<i>Phillips Exeter—1</i>	▪ <i>Garfield HS—31</i>
<i>Forest Ridge—6</i>	<i>Seattle Academy—6</i>	▪ <i>Washington MS APP—16</i>
<i>Holy Names—6</i>	<i>Seattle Prep—6</i>	<i>The Thacher School—2</i>
<i>Lakeside—27</i>	<i>University Prep—17</i>	

## **Rainier Scholars Services and Preparation:**

1. ***Academic Preparation:*** All of our students complete an intensive 14-month academic enrichment program during their 6<sup>th</sup> grade year. This increases their scholastic skills and potential for further academic success.
2. ***Placement into Rigorous Academic Programs:*** Many of our students are placed into the top private and public school programs in Seattle and beyond. Our private school students continue to receive a significant amount of financial aid from their respective schools and their communities see the return on their investment in the level of academic success and leadership Rainier Scholars bring to the school community.
3. ***Ongoing Academic Counseling:*** As a part of the Academic Counseling Support Services (ACSS) phase, all students receive personalized academic counseling from 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, ensuring that they sustain strong academic records. Among other benefits, Scholars receive monthly visits from an Academic Counselor, have access to a bi-weekly tutoring center and attend annual student and family planning meetings.
4. ***Access to School-Year and Summer Enrichment Opportunities:*** Rainier Scholars consistently encourages families and students to seek meaningful and enriching educational experiences. In addition to opportunities provided through the RS Internship Program, our students have also been accepted to participate in programs ranging from the Exeter Summer Program to international trips.
5. ***Leadership Development (LD) Retreats:*** From 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, all RS students participate in a series of five leadership development retreats during which they return to the academic rigor of the Academic Program. Students study leadership in various arenas and are challenged to implement the tools of effective leadership.
6. ***Extensive College Preparation:*** All Scholars receive individualized services to guide them through the college application process. RS helps students formulate their 'short lists' and provides skill-based SAT test preparation courses, application & financial aid workshops.