



2009 Pride Foundation Scholars

Congratulations to the students below, who have been awarded Pride Foundation scholarships. A total of 119 students received a combined total of \$265,000 for their education. We hope you enjoy reading a little bit about these inspiring scholars. The name of the scholarship(s) they are receiving is listed after their names. For more about Pride Foundation scholarships please visit PrideFoundation.org/scholarships.

Chelsea Adams

Scott Rodriguez Athletics

In June 2008, not only did this passionate student graduate from Snohomish High School but at the same time also received an A.A. degree from Everett C. C. through the Running Start Program. After completing her bachelor degree Chelsea plans to obtain a graduate degree and teach English on the secondary level. As an open lesbian, she is committed to becoming an out teacher and create a sense of security for her students, leading by example that diversity should not only be tolerated but a normal part of life.

Austin Anderson

Bellevue PFLAG

A 17-year old straight male from Fall City, WA, Austin is planning to attend Fairhaven College at Western Washington University where he wants to study law and social justice. He is heavily involved as the president of his high school's GSA and has been an outspoken advocate of LGBT equality. He plans to specialize in human rights law, especially for underrepresented and minority populations

Martha Anthony

Pride Foundation/Washington Peninsula

Martha, a 65 year old lesbian, received her BA in Sociology in 2007 and now plans to get her certification from the University of WA in Gerontology. Her greatest accomplishment is being a mother, and teaching LGBT elder cultural sensitivity in human services.

Luis Arce

Pride Foundation Community

Luis is a 26 year-old Mexican American from Mt. Angel, OR and a first generation college student. He will attend Western Oregon Univ. and major in social science. Luis desires to become an advocate for the Hispanic HIV community and believes that knowledge equals power.

Kristina Armenakis

Pride Foundation Community, Political Leadership

Kristina is pursuing two masters' degrees in Social Work and Public Administration at the University of WA with the goal of becoming an LGBTQ non-profit leader. She has worked in the LGBTQ community for ten years and currently works at Lambert House and as a trainer/facilitator for the Safe Schools Coalition and the American Friends Service Committee.

Johnathan Arrowsmith

Pride Foundation Community

This 27 year old is embarking on yet another major life transition. Having already moved from small town Georgia to Seattle and transitioned from female to male, he is leaving the world of business to pursue a graduate degree in elementary education at the University of Washington graduate program.

Gabe Barnow

Bellevue PFLAG

Gabe is a 17 year old queer, Jewish woman from Mercer Island. She plans to attend Fairhaven College where she will study behavioral neurosciences. She is a counselor-in-training at Camp Ten Trees, an LGBT and straight ally youth summer camp.

Karama Blackhorn

Pride Foundation/Black Hills, Tony DeBlase

Karama identifies as a low income, first generation, Scottish and Kahosadi activist dyke. She has been involved with queer, youth and education activism since she was 15 years old and is attending The Evergreen State College for a B.A. in Queer Studies and Social Justice. Karama created Queering Olympia, Queer Space Reclamation project, and coordinates the Evergreen Queer Alliance.

Jeremy Bolton

Paul Arnold, Ulrich Pischke, Pride Foundation/Inland Northwest

Jeremy, a Spokane WA native and a first generation college student, is pursuing his dream by working toward his bachelor's degree in visual communication at Eastern WA University. He is currently employed at Thinking Cap Design & Communication where applies his skills for clients like GLAAD, Outfest, and the Spokane AIDS Network.

Benjamin Bonnema

Dennis Coleman

Ben is attending Whitworth University where his love of music composition and theater has led him to focus his academic studies on both. As a gay student at a conservative Christian university, Ben struggles to bridge the gap between the gay and Christian communities. As president of Whitworth's GSA, he has supported several students with their coming out process..

Chris Burns**Brian M. Day**

Chris is happy to work, volunteer and attend school as an out African-American, transgender man. In order to reach his goal of being a well-rounded veterinarian, he is working towards majors in both humanities and biology, as well as a minor in chemistry.

Shannon Carroll**Pride Foundation Community, Tony DeBlase, Robert Browning**

Shannon left home at 16, petitioning the state to emancipate him, as he left behind extreme poverty and a strict religious home to explore his world. In 1994, he came out on national television, and went on to receive a BA from UMass. Moving to Seattle in 2001, has worked for Public Health, The Sex Check, and Gay City where his interest in queer health flourished. He is pursuing a graduate degree in nursing at Seattle University.

Danielle Carver**Pride Foundation/Inland Northwest, Inland Northwest Business Association**

Danielle is in her final year at Spokane Falls C.C., working toward her A.A. in Social Work. Once completed, she plans to transfer to Eastern Washington University where she will pursue a Master's Degree in Social Work. She spent most of her childhood in and out of foster homes and would like to support the community which once supported her.

Christopher Chase**Pride Foundation/Pierce County**

Christopher is a gay Japanese-American man striving for the best in life. His biggest challenge has been losing friends and family due to his sexuality. He will attend Western Washington University in the fall to study Psychology. He wants to help people by making a positive impact on the lives of others.

Lee Colbert**Pride Foundation Community, Don Renschler, Compassionate Care**

A 43 year-old African American woman, she is the first in her family to go to college. Lee is studying psychology at Antioch University, enrolled in the Child, Couple and Family Therapy program. Lee has also been studying Afro-Cuban music with Ijo Ayanno and hopes to blend music and therapeutic skills to enhance other's lives.

Rhianna Day
Pride Foundation/Black Hills

Rhianna is an 18 year-old bisexual female from Allyn, WA. She was the president of her high school GSA this year and plans to pursue a degree in Human Services at Olympic College next year. Despite facing a homophobic family situation, Rhianna has overcome her challenges and is more dedicated than ever to be involved in LGBT activism.

lore m. dickey
Don Renschler

lore is currently working towards a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at the University of North Dakota and looks forward to serving the LGBT community as a psychologist. He recently learned that he has been chosen to present his research on sexual identity development in Oslo, Norway at the World Professional Association for Transgender Health in June 2009.

Caitlin Donnelly
Bellevue PFLAG

Caitlin is from Fall City, WA, and graduating from Mount Si High School. This fall, she will attend the University of Washington where she will study Psychology and English. After earning her Bachelor's degree, she plans to join the Peace Corps.

Kristin Ericson
McFarffels, You Go Girl!

Kristin graduated from Western Washington University with a BA in Political Science and a focus on the international political economy. She spent a summer volunteering as a sexual health educator in a small village in rural Kenya while researching international health and education policy. She will be continuing her studies as a Master of Public Administration candidate at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University.

Cherese Farmer
Patricia Van Kirk

Part of a large family, Cherese is fortunate to have an outstanding support group. She graduated from High School with honors while working full-time and participating in several plays. She will use her love of theater to give back to her community, create hope for those discriminated against and promote tolerance. Cherese is attending Idaho State University for a degree in Directing.

Ian Feis
Pride Foundation/Whatcom Skagit, Political Leadership

Ian is in his first year at Lewis and Clark College. With previous experience founding Mount Vernon High School's GSA, he started the Global Engagement Board and the campus ACLU chapter. He has been awarded the ACLU of

Washington's Youth Activist of the Year Award (2008).

Tracy Ferrara

Dennis Coleman

Tracy has been a performing musician for over 25 years. Her longest running project, Swamp Mama Johnson, was an all-lesbian band inspired to breakdown stereotypes and homophobic barriers in the community. She plans to attend the Pacific NW Film Scoring Program for her master's degree.

Jessica Frank

James & Colin Lee Wozumi

At the University of Oregon, Jessica is studying Education and Cultural Anthropology. A Native American woman, raised in a dangerously close-minded Idaho town, she cherishes the gift of diversity in the world and proudly passes it on to her son. As an educator, she plans to promote tolerance and HIV prevention and sexual safety.

Andrew Gadbois

Pride Foundation Community, Bill Bendiner / Doug Morgenson, Compassionate Care, Pride Foundation/Columbia-Willamette

For the past five years Andrew has been working with homeless youth who are marginalized within their own community. This work has fueled his desire to continue his education and achieve a degree in Social Work at Concordia University. "The youth inspire me and challenge me to follow my own dreams."

Phillip Garry

Pride Foundation Community, Pride Foundation Columbia-Willamette

Currently a sophomore at Portland State University majoring in Sociology, Phillip has been actively involved with the queer community since he was 15 years old. He has been part of Pride Project, the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center and is now Center Coordinator at the Queer Resource Center.

Jeff Gierer

Pride Foundation Community

Jeff's professional passion is anti-poverty intervention and mentoring. He is currently pursuing a master's degree at Portland State University in speech-language pathology with interests in fluency, literacy development and cultures in poverty.

Elliat Graney-Saucke

Patricia Van Kirk

Elliat's degree focus is Leadership Development & Organizational Structures in the Arts. She worked in founding/directing the Bend-It Extravaganza and has been involved with the Pat Graney Company Prison Project and the National Performance Network. She was Executive Producer/Director of the documentary "Travel Queeries" about radical queer culture in Europe.

Michael Greer**Pride Foundation Community**

Facing and overcoming adversity motivate Michael in his education. He completed his undergraduate studies at Seattle University and stayed to complete his Masters of Criminal Justice with a joint Juris Doctorate/Masters of Arts - Criminal Justice degree. Michael also received a Pride Foundation Scholarship in 2007 and 2008.

Lena Elizabeth Gunn**Pride Foundation/Inland Northwest**

Proud of her accomplishments and confident of her success, Lena has overcome the low expectations given to high school dropouts to attend college. Her own strength and her family's support has enabled her to find a path to success in life. She is currently working on her B.S. at Washington State University and is planning her graduate studies in genetic counseling.

Ron M. Hammer**Pride Foundation/Inland Northwest**

Ron will complete his Masters in Social Work this year and plans to attend the doctoral program at Gonzaga University. His own experiences as a youth are a driving force in his goals to become a leader fighting the hopelessness and marginalization in LGBTQ communities.

Alaina Hellum-Alexander**Pride Foundation Community**

Alaina is working on her graduate degree in Mathematics at The Evergreen State College and is also a math tutor and part-time reading coach. She is looking forward to spending this summer with high school students participating in Upward Bound. She hopes to be a math teacher and a mentor for youth in her community.

Carina Hernandez**Pride Foundation Community**

Carina is a recent high school graduate from Mattawa, WA. She wants to become a social worker or teacher and will be attending Columbia Basin C.C.. She is deeply committed to her community and volunteers at the local library, migrant camp sites, and the local food bank. Her goal is to return to her high school to help start a Gay-Straight Alliance.

Kalee Hoag-Weber**Pride Foundation/Columbia Basin**

Kalee has endured many challenges and suffered great personal loss in her life, but persevered and graduated from high school. She has many aspirations for her future, most prominently attaining a degree in Psychology. She is attending Big Bend C.C..

Jackson Hogan**Pride Foundation/Inland Northwest, Pride Foundation Community**

Jackson has overcome physical violence and harassment to become an outspoken advocate against hate crimes. Ze is a Junior studying Women's Studies and Spanish at Washington State University. Ze has focused his academic career on underage transgender/transsexual healthcare.

Ellwood Howard**Pride Foundation/Southern Idaho**

Ellwood is an openly gay man living in Idaho. His greatest accomplishment is being the founder of the Idaho LGBT Scholarship Association. He wants to teach and believes that many of the wrongs in the world can be changed through education.

Frank Huguenin**Urashi Zen**

At the age of 19, Frank was disowned by his family and discharged from the Naval Academy for being gay. For five years he fought addiction and homelessness until he was able to redefine himself, undergo treatment and return to school. He is currently completing his undergraduate work at the University of Washington Business School and in the fall will attend Seattle University School of Law.

Jordon Inloes**Pride Foundation/Clark County**

Jordon's life has been touched by people that deeply care for him. His family was supportive of him when he came out in middle school and his friends and family have given him the support he needs to persevere in school and do well in his job in University Libraries. He is studying Biology at the University of Washington, leading to a medical career.

Mikeya Jackson-Harper**James & Colin Lee Wozumi**

Mikeya grew up with a father who physically abused her mother. As a student at Bellevue College studying History and English, she is occasionally exhausted from being a student, educator, activist and spoken word poet. However, she and her mother are survivors and she is working to re-establish her relationship with her father. Mikeya continues to inspire people as a heroic leader speaking her truth and voicing her survival through her mentoring and teaching with Youth Speaks Seattle.

Erik Janson**Pride Foundation Community, Donald O. Coffman, Group Health, Robert Browning, Scott Rodriguez Athletic**

Erik is passionate about dismantling institutionalized oppression and promoting

community health. He has worked in primary care with Latino immigrants in Seattle and rural Washington, conducted research in HIV prevention and children's mental health, and was the Program Manager at Verbena. He is pursuing a Doctorate in Nursing Practice.

Emily Juhre

Pride Foundation Community, Inland Northwest Business Association

Emily attends Central Valley High School where she maintains a 3.99 GPA, has wrestled on the boys wrestling team and received 3 varsity letters. She founded her High School's GSA and was awarded a Chase Youth award for diversity in 2009. She will attend the University of Washington in the fall.

Owen Kajfasz

Pride Foundation/Washington Peninsulas

19-year old Owen relocated from Port Angeles to attend the University of Washington. He is excited at the prospect of living a free and open life in an environment of acceptance. He hopes to become a teacher and is engaged with the Safe Schools Coalition and American Friends Service Committee's LGBT students panel.

Casey Adam Katims

Senator Ed Murray Honorary, Pride Foundation Community, Urashi Zen

Casey is a senior at Vassar College, majoring in Political Science with a focus in American LGBT civil rights policy. He has interned at the Human Rights Campaign and this summer will be an intern for Congressman Jay Inslee. He is especially appreciative of his supportive family, who has given him strength and courage to succeed.

David Kim

Pride Foundation Community, Political Leadership

David will pursue a Masters in Public Administration at the University of Southern California. He was an intern for WA state senator Paul Shin and the campaign manager for Representative Mark Miloscia in 2009. After graduating he plans to join the Foreign Service and work in the field of nuclear nonproliferation.

Jenny Kinder

Pride Foundation/Columbia Basin

Jenny created the first Gay-Straight Alliance at Eisenhower High School in Yakima WA. She is pursuing a career as a community health clinical psychologist at Seattle University in hopes of bridging the gap between LGBT youth, the schools and the community at large.

Kai Kohlsdorf

Pride Foundation Community

Kai is a Ph.D. student in Woman Studies at the University of Washington. Next year he plans to create a center for sexual literacy at the UW campus. Kai has

taught, written, and presented on gender and sexual identity issues across the county.

Leah R Kyaio

Pride Foundation Community

Leah attends Capella University and is working on her PhD in Educational Leadership and Administration. She has served in the classroom with students ranging from preschool to adults. Leah is deeply committed to her community, having volunteered with Kitsap Safe Schools, Mesa Redonda, Stand Up for Kids, and others.

Anthony LaFriner

Dennis Coleman

Anthony, an 18-year old Native American gay male from Coeur d'Alene, will be attending Concordia College. He is passionate about music and is seeking a Bachelor of Music degree and eventually wants to attain his Master's in music. His career goal is to sing at the Metropolitan Opera.

Kimberly Largen

Pride Foundation/Clark County

Kimberly is completing her Bachelor of Social Work at Eastern Washington University – Clark Campus, where she strives to use her education in a way that enacts social change. Kimberly is an Activity Director for her school's programming board and has used the opportunity to bring a breadth of multicultural and LGBT-specific programming to campus.

Rebekah Largent

Pride Foundation Community

Rebekah attends Eastern Washington University where she is working on her degree in communications. Rebekah's greatest accomplishment has been her activism in and out of school, such as starting the first Gay-Straight Alliance at North Central High School in Colfax, WA.

Heather Laurie

Pride Foundation Community

Heather will graduate from Portland State University with a Masters in Social Work in 2010. She currently works as a program coordinator for the Human Dignity Coalition in her home town of Bend, OR. After graduation she wishes to teach community organizing and activism at the collegiate level.

Elizabeth Lavalley

Pride Foundation/Black Hills

Elizabeth attends Grays Harbor College where she works in the Equity and Diversity resource center and is the vice-president of the Gay-Straight Alliance.

She plans to attain a Certified Nursing Assistant certificate and one day hopes to open a natural birthing center in Grays Harbor.

Thomas Lee

Pride Foundation/Pierce County

Thomas has worked in social services as a personal attendant, as well as a direct service provider and activity coordinator for people with disabilities. This sparked him to return to school to become an LPN as a stepping stone to RN nursing. He has volunteered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Oasis Youth Center, Explorer Search and Rescue, and Wildlife Conservation.

Eugene Ligman

Pride Foundation Community, Pride Foundation/Clark County

Gene is attending Washington State University where he is majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He is excited to be attending school once again especially now as an openly gay man.

Jaimee M.K. Marsh

Pride Foundation Community, Don Renschler, You Go Girl!

Jaimee attended the University of Washington where she received the 2009 President's Achievement Award for academic accomplishments in social work. She is a McNair scholar with 3 research publications, and will be in the Masters of social work program at the University of Michigan this fall.

Lindsey Matson

Pride Foundation/Southern Idaho

Lindsey attends Boise State University and is studying social work. She has worked at the BSU Women's Center, as well as volunteering with Allies Linked for the Prevention of HIV and AIDS. She is very active in Boise's LGBTQ community.

Callen McGriff

Pride Foundation Community

Callan calls herself a typical high school senior who loves hanging out with friends, her family, enjoys sports and is excited to graduate and attend the University of Idaho to study either civil engineering or premed. She is the daughter of a gay man, and her custody case went to the Idaho Supreme Court and is now a precedence used across the country.

Blue McKeon

Phil Sullivan, Obrzut Ling, Pride Foundation Community

Blue, faced with some extreme challenges very early on in life has managed to come through with an infectious optimism. He has served with PETA, Lake City Food Bank, Boomtown Café, Huge House, Dunshee House, and Camp Sealth.

He will begin the Boat Building Certification Program at Seattle Central C.C. in the fall.

Gita Mehrotra

Pride Foundation Community, APIQS , Barbara Bailey

Gita spent the past 14 years working in the domestic violence movement with an emphasis on South Asian communities and since 2003, she has worked with the Asian Women's Shelter in San Francisco. She is currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Washington's School of Social Work.

James Metcalf

Inland Northwest Business Association, Pride Foundation Community

Growing up in Three Forks MT, James needed to leave home at 15 due to an abusive environment. During the school year he works 36 hours a week to provide for himself while taking advanced placement classes and remaining on the honor roll. He will be attending the University of Nevada for a Bachelor's in Nursing.

Daniel Moore

Don Renschler

Daniel is graduate student in the School of Nursing at the University of Washington. He is passionate about building healthy communities through a holistic, long-term health perspective influenced by his passion for Eastern and Western medicine and is a Board member for the Safe Schools Coalition.

Kathryn Moore

Robert Browning

Kate has consistently fought for LGBT rights since the age of 16. A medical student at Oregon Health and Science University, Kate plans to become a primary care physician while continuing to work toward equitable healthcare policy.

Heather Nielsen

Whidbey Island Giving Circle

Heather has been through a lot in her life, which has helped her to realize that she's not the only person going through problems who needs help. She will attend Edmonds Community College to study business, with the goal of starting her own advertising business and donating 40-60% of the profits to support health care for those who need it.

Lisa Nowlin

You Go Girl!

Lisa will be starting her second year of at NYU School of Law this fall. She has worked with the Multifaith Works AIDS Care Team, Lifelong AIDS Alliance, and OUTLaw, the LGBT student law organization at NYU.

Blake Olmstead**Paul Arnold**

After graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Cornish College of the Arts next year, Blake hopes for a job using his skills in layout, typography and photography. His love for edgy, European design coupled with his attention to detail has helped to fill his spare time working freelance design jobs.

Herve Ondoua Mindzie**Brian M. Day**

Herve was born in Cameroon 29 years ago. He left his home in 1999 to escape homophobia and pursue his goal of becoming a nurse. He is attending Seattle Central Community College and wants to research HIV vaccines.

Zoey Owens**Pride Foundation Community, Scott Rodriguez Leadership**

Zoey is a 23-year-old undergraduate at Portland State University studying social work. Through the struggles she's experienced in her life, she's developed her awareness of community needs and devotion to social change. She puts her values into action by volunteering as a suicide counselor for transgender individuals.

Pedro Pacheco Mendoza**NASP-Trio**

Pedro was born in Guanajuato, Mexico and in 1998 he moved to Oregon where he completed high school and went on to community college. He is now pursuing a degree in Family and Human Services at the University of Oregon and works part time at a care center for individuals with dementia.

Jake Paikai**Pride Foundation Community, Pride Foundation/Pierce County**

Jake is an English Literature/German Language double major at Pacific Lutheran University. He works as a Diversity Advocate at the Diversity Center and for his university's literary magazine, Saxifrage. Jake enjoys is involved with the Aliyah Jewish Club and Harmony, PLU's Queer Awareness and Advocacy club.

Raynette Parks**Whidbey Island Giving Circle**

When Raynette graduates from Skagit Valley College she will be the first woman in her family with a college degree. She plans to attend the University of Washington in the fall to obtain her B.A. in History and eventually her Masters in Public Relations.

Mary Parvin

Pride Foundation Community, Pride Foundation Washington Peninsula

Along with participating in the Kitsap Pride Planning Committee and Kitsap County AIDS Walk, Mary plans to obtain certification as a Medical Assistant in order to further give back to the LGBTQ community. She has 13 years of experience as a Childbirth Educator and Doula and her greatest accomplishment is the raising of seven incredibly loving and accepting kids.

Finn Paul

Jack Motteler

Finn is studying art at the Pacific Northwest College of Art and is working toward a BFA in Photography, while also learning other mediums. He will curate a queer show at PNCA in July. His photos explore his queer community by exploring gender, stereotypes, sex, consent and more.

Mike Pham

Paul Arnold, Obrzut Ling

Mike's educational career has taken him from New York to Seattle, where he is an active participant in the arts community. Through his critically acclaimed theater company, Helsinki Syndrome, he discovered his passion for graphic design and illustration, now his focus of study at Seattle Central Community College.

Shoshanna Porter

Pride Foundation/Clark County

Shoshanna retired last year from teaching college and came out to herself and others in her early 50s. Her goal is to complete her MDIV for certification as a hospice/hospital Chaplain, offering support and sensitivity to the needs of the GLBTQ community.

Michael Andrew Profitt

Pride Foundation Community, Pride Foundation/Southern Idaho, Lee S. Burke,

Scott Rodriguez Leadership

Michael will study Political Science/Pre-Law student at Seattle University. One of his aspirations is to hold public office, and another is to start a non-profit to help grant asylum for LGBTQ individuals who are persecuted in other countries.

Carlos Ramirez

Pride Foundation Community, Pride Foundation/Columbia Basin, Inland Northwest Business Association

Carlos will graduate from Pasco High School this year and begin studying at the University of Washington in the fall. He plans to volunteer both on campus and in the community.

Kyle Rapinan

Phil Sullivan, Political Leadership, Brian M. Day

Kyle is completing his first year at the University of Washington, studying Law, Societies and Justice. He is a youth advocate in the LGBT community, volunteering for American Friends Service Committee, Safe Schools Coalition, Lambert House, and as the Washington State representative for GLSEN.

Mana Zane Rapinan

Pride Foundation Community, Scott Rodriguez Leadership, Obrzut Ling, Jack Motteler, Ulrich Pischke

Mana Zane is a trans-identified Seattle native, a facilitator at Ingersoll Gender Center and a panelist for gender and sexuality issues. Currently studying Digital Interactive Media/Computer Illustration at Shoreline C.C., Mana Zane plans to obtain a BFA in art and design and use his talents to further the diversity and exposure of LGBT inclusive imagery in the media.

Robert Reagan

James & Colin Lee Wozumi

Robert has overcome much to pursue a life that is healthy, clean and productive. He is pursuing a nursing degree at North Seattle C.C.. After completing his studies, he hopes to work with youth around recovery, mental health and end-of-life transitions.

Daniel Records

Pride Foundation Community, Pride Foundation/Black Hills, Rosenberg-Ibarra

Daniel is a gay male from Montesano, WA in law school at the University of Idaho. He wants to pursue a career in law as a service to others in the LGBT community. As an undergraduate, Daniel worked at the Center for Human Rights and the Gender Identity/Expression and Sexual Orientation Resource Center.

Gabe Riggs

Pride Foundation/Whatcom Skagit

Gabe's greatest challenge was homelessness, shortly after discovering his transsexual identity. Gabe is a student at The Evergreen State College, lives in his own apartment, and participates in a support group for Trans men. He is working toward a degree that will enable him to help those whose struggles have been similar.

Nubia Rodriguez Esquivel

Pride Foundation Community, Social Work, Associates in Behavior Health, Compassionate Care, Pride Foundation/Columbia-Willamette

Growing up in a single parent home in Mexico City, Nubia was able to overcome challenges and turn her life around. She moved to Portland, OR at 24 and is now attending Portland State University, studying towards a Masters in Social

Work. She wants to work with populations at risk and wants to be a role model in the Latino community.

Jordin Saunders-Jensen

Kathy Spadoni

Jordin is entering her sophomore year at Lewis and Clark College. She is a political science major with a concentration in sociology. Jordin is also contemplating a minor in gender studies or history. In between classes, she'll be playing NCAA soccer. Over the summer, she will be working for the ACLU through a canvassing organization called Grassroots Campaigns!. She's looking forward to eventually working in politics as a campaign manager and speechwriter for the Democratic Party.

Mehera Scheu

Associates in Behavior Health

In her late twenties, Mehera went against the odds and became the first person in her family to graduate from college. As an out lesbian, and a diversity trainer working on behalf of the LGBTQ community, she has become intensely committed to combating social injustice through education. She is currently studying towards a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology at Pacific University.

Nathaniel Shara

APIQS

Nathan is a social justice therapist and community educator and he has worked within communities of color and queer communities doing organizing, training, violence prevention and therapy. His integrates body-based healing practices into his work with oppressed communities, drawing from trauma studies, generative somatics, and the resilience of his own communities.

Kristopher McLloyd Shultz

Pride Foundation/Columbia Basin, Inland Northwest Business Association

Kristopher is a junior at Washington State University majoring in Women's Studies and with a Latin American Studies minor. Ze has been a part of planning rallies, protests and events to raise awareness of violence that occurs on and off campus. After Kristopher graduates, ze plans to get hir masters degree and open a non-profit organization working with queer youth.

Nathan Silpakit

Black Hills

Nathan is graduating both from Olympia High School and South Puget Sound C.C. through the Running Start program. His roots as a Thai-American and the compassion instilled by his strong Buddhist values earned him the role of Student Senator for Diversity and Equity Affairs at SPSCC. He will attend the University of Washington to study psychology and communications.

Matthias Slavens**Paul Arnold, Ulrich Pischke**

Spending most of his childhood moving from home to home with his mother, Matthias gained an early understanding of the world around him and the important role he faces as a gay youth in a society where social standards are ever changing. At Pratt Institute, he has been able to continue his curiosities in the field of architecture. After he graduates, he hopes to attend Princeton University's Masters Program in Architecture and Design.

Jessica K. Solie**Pride Foundation/Washington Peninsula**

Jessica was born and raised in Bremerton, WA. She had a difficult childhood and was assaulted and bullied on a regular basis in high school. She received her A.A.S. from Olympic College and is currently at The Evergreen State College working towards a B.A. in Writing.

Eartha Leandra Stanley**Political Leadership**

Born and raised in Portland, OR, Eartha has been passionate about academics and service since she was young. She is a senior at De La Salle North Catholic High School, and is involved with the Cascade AIDS Project and OPAL- Voices for Empowerment. Leandra was elected President of student council and inducted into the National Honor Society in 2008. Leandra will be attending Willamette University to study Pre-Law and Politics.

Matthew Steele**Cole Family Scholarship**

Matthew has been active in Bend-It and one highlight of his work was a discussion series that brought queers into a critical discussion on gentrification, immigrant rights and gay marriage, focusing specifically on the intersectionality of the many identities present. His graduate work will make use of the critical queer lens these experiences have given him to look into community development and organizing through cooperative models.

T Steele**Pride Foundation Pierce County**

T Steele is pursuing a Master's in Social Work degree at the University of Washington, Tacoma. Her research focus is Technology and Social Justice and she will be doing a practicum at the VA and hopes to bring awareness of LGBTQI veteran's issues.

Holly Swanson**Pride Foundation/Whatcom Skagit**

Holly is a nursing student at Whatcom C.C. and she wants to earn a Master's in Nursing and eventually become a family practice nurse practitioner. Holly's has maintained a 4.0 GPA and lives with her partner in Bellingham, raising two

daughters, ages 4 and 6.

Josh Taylor
Ulrich Pischke

Josh, originally from Nampa, ID, will be attending Cornish College of the Arts working toward a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. He has had a life filled with adversity, but has used these negative experiences to grow. Last August, his home was destroyed in a wildfire, but rather than getting angry he documented the event for the city archives so that people wouldn't forget what the community had survived together.

Norma Timbang
Deloris Carter Hampton, Pride Foundation Community

After completing her Master in Social Work at the University of Washington, Norma will support the progressive movement by working collaboratively to create multicultural mental health and community organizing practices, which integrate understandings of individual trauma, organizational trauma, historical trauma and intersections of these challenges.

Julie D. Trout
Pride Foundation Community

Julie was raised in Oklahoma, and was a leader in sports throughout high school. She enlisted in the Army, specialized in communications and is now pursuing retraining as a radiographic technologist at Bellingham Technical College.

Jazmine Troutt
Scott Rodriguez Athletic

Jazmine credits perseverance, dedication and discipline for helping her accomplish her educational goals. She has always set high expectations for herself and overcome a learning disability to succeed in school. Her goal is a career in athletic training and physical therapy, and she plans to attend Washington State University next fall.

Margaret Elizabeth Ullery
You Go Girl!

Elizabeth is completing her first year in the University of Washington's Masters in Library Science program and works as a reference librarian at The Evergreen State College. She is also the Junior Women's Head Coach for Olympia Area Rowing.

Jeff Verlanic**Baker Merriwether, Donald O. Coffman, Inland Northwest Business Association, Pride Foundation Community**

Jeff, a theatre student at the University of Montana, was recently appointed and then re-elected to the UM student body senate as the only openly gay member. He is an active member of his drama department and he does many outreach programs in the community. He has the unique opportunity of working with small schools throughout Montana on their stances against homophobia and lives his life proudly and openly.

Jessica Vignali**Inland Northwest Business Association**

Jessie will attend Eastern Washington University to pursue a graduate degree in Social Work. With her partner in the military, she feels injustice that must change in this world, and with Social Work values and ethics in mind, her goal is to fight for change.

Jessica Warmbo**Pride Foundation Community, Political Leadership**

Jessica is a sophomore at the University of Washington. She overcame a difficult family situation to become a successful young woman who enjoys volunteer work, and does as much as she can on top of school and her part-time job.

Nicole Webb**Derivative Duo, Bill Bendiner / Doug Morgenson**

Nicole was faced with the choice of denying who she was to attend a Christian college where homosexuality was prohibited or delaying school. She chose to take some time off, and discovered that social work was her calling. She is excited to embark on her education at Seattle University, a college that accepts every part of her and that will help her cultivate her skills and goals.

Andrew Weston**Pride Foundation/Southern Idaho, Rosenberg-Ibarra**

After spending 10 years in a body that finally fits his gender identity, Drew knew it was time to find work he could enjoy while supporting his family. Drew sees the opportunity to go to school and become a Barber as a chance to not only better his life and self-worth, but to also create a safe space for others who are struggling.

Amber Whitcher**Pride Foundation/Washington Peninsula**

Amber a graduate of North Mason High School and the University of Washington. She is currently a MPH Candidate at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. She would like to work on program evaluation

and social marketing design research, in HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, MRSA and GLBTQ health issues.

Meredith Williams

Pride Foundation/Inland Northwest, Pride Foundation Community

Meredith, originally from West Jordan, UT is currently a PhD student of Sociology at Washington State University and she hopes that her queerness, compassion, activism and experience will help show others their powers.

Jeremy Stephen Wright

Pride Foundation/Washington Peninsula, Dennis Coleman

Jeremy was raised on the Olympic Peninsula and found growing up LGBT in a rural area with religious parents difficult. However, during high school he found and solidified his passion for singing and composing, which has since brought him to school on the East Coast, where he is studying music at Adelphi University.

Antony Xczar

Thelma Dewitty, Bill Bendiner / Doug Morgenson

Antony is attending the University of Washington, earning his Master of Social Work degree and also working toward discernment as a pastoral priest in the Episcopal Church. As the founder of the Safe Homecoming Club at Seattle Central Community College, Antony has worked tirelessly to give back to others.