



## 2011 Pride Foundation Scholar Biographies

**Sayid Abdullaev** is originally from the Kyrgyz Republic and now resides in Twin Falls, ID. At the age of ten, he joined a nonprofit youth leadership organization and has been involved in organizing camps for disabled youth, leadership conferences, and community partnership events. He has received honorary recognition from the President of Kyrgyzstan, the United Nations, and numerous other organizations. At the College of Southern Idaho, Sayid studies Communications and Political Science and is a Student Body Senator.

***Phil Sullivan, Pride Foundation Idaho Scholarships***

**Elise Abramson** is from Kenmore, WA and studies Law at the University of Washington. She graduated summa cum laude from Oregon State in Business and Psychology. Elise is interested in studying how gender stereotypes and segregation harms all genders and increases misunderstanding and promotes hate for those who violate gender norms.

***Pride Foundation Eastern Washington Idaho Scholarship***

**Timothy Adams** is a Montana native studying Computer Science and Statistics at Montana State University - Bozeman, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Justice Studies in 2006. Currently the president of MSU's Queer-Straight Alliance, he has worked with many organizations, including the Western Montana Gay & Lesbian Community Center, Montana Targeted AIDS Prevention, and Missoula AIDS Council. He hopes to continue working for LGBTQ rights in Montana to create civil, social and political change.

***Pride Foundation Montana Idaho Scholarship***

**Oscar Arana-Ochoa** is the Education Manager at the Native American Youth and Family Center in Portland, OR. He has been supporting and advocating for youth for more than a decade. Oscar is currently working on his Master's in Business Administration through the University of Oregon's Executive MBA Program. Oscar plans to continue working in the nonprofit sector, utilizing his new skills to strengthen the administrative and financial departments of direct service organizations. In the future, he hopes to lead a culturally-specific or youth organization that also provides programming and services to the LGBTQ community.

***Pride Foundation Community Scholarship***

**Emily Barton** is a graduate of McGill University and The Culinary Institute of America. She plans to pursue ordination as a rabbi and obtain a Master's degree in Sacred Music this fall at the Jewish Theological Seminary, which only began to accept gay and lesbian students for ordination in 2007. Emily is especially interested in inspiring children and adolescents to develop their spiritual selves through song and by wrestling with religious texts.

***Dennis Coleman Scholarship***

**Chad Beach** is from Eagle, ID and attends the University of Idaho to study Political Science. He grew up in a very strict Mormon household and joined the Army in 2009. When he came out as gay later that year to his family, they were very supportive of him. He has used his strengths through this smooth transition to help other youth who lack the family and community support they need to succeed. He is an anti-bullying activist and has organized numerous protests on campus.

***Rosenberg-Ibarra Scholarship***

**Serena Berry**, a first-generation college student, is completing her Associate of Arts at Pierce Community College in Lakewood, WA and plans to transfer to the University of Washington to obtain her Bachelor of Arts degree. Her long-term goals include owning her own production company focused on accurately representing marginalized groups. By overcoming economic hardships and family barriers, she has learned perseverance and dedication to improving the future.

***Patricia Van Kirk Scholarship***

**Ben Bonnema** is a 22-year-old gay composer attending Tisch School of the Arts. He has written music for off-off Broadway productions and had his work performed in venues throughout New York! Ben came out while attending a private Christian University in Eastern Washington. He faced discrimination and opposition but remained proud of who he was, working tirelessly to ensure future LGBTQ students felt accepted on campus. Ultimately, Ben's goal is to have a show open on Broadway!

***Charly Baker/Heath Merriwether, Dennis Coleman, Pride Foundation Community Scholarships***

**Adrian Bravo**, originally from Idaho, is an intern at Communities in Schools and a volunteer in Spokane, WA. After coming out to parents and dealing with challenging family situations, he moved to Spokane to live with his sister and completed his senior year of high school with academic honors. Adrian is employed as a theme park ride attendant to pay for living and college expenses, and is driven to pursue his dream of becoming a chemist and a role model for others overcoming challenges.

***Inland Northwest Business Alliance Scholarships***

**Kathleen Bridges** is a freshman at Seattle University, a women's rights activist, and a volunteer for GLSEN. She is also a practicing Catholic who embraces her faith as well as her sexuality and is learning how to reconcile the two. Her goal is to create a safe space for those who identify as LGBTQ to express who they are without having to feel that they need to give up their faith in order to do so.

***Political Leadership, Pride Foundation Community Scholarships***

**Nani Brockett** is working toward a just and equitable world starting in Thurston County, WA, and will attend the Evergreen State College to earn her Master's in Public Administration with a focus on Nonprofit Leadership and Public Policy. Currently, she is the Chair on the board of Stonewall Youth, Vice-Chair on the board of United Communities AIDS Network, and a Trustee at Evergreen State College. She enjoys participating in many committees and feels inspired by shared determination.

***Political Leadership, Pride Foundation Southwest Washington Scholarships***

**Margaret "Miki" Cabell** of Hoquiam, WA, is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Humanities at the Evergreen State College. She is a 46-year-old lesbian woman of color who wishes to be an academic and change the legacy she leaves her children and grandchildren. She is involved in local LGBTQ community advocacy and wants to make a difference in the lives of queer youth of color in her rural community. Miki has helped organize regular "lavender lunches" to serve as a safe space for community members to discuss challenges.

***Pride Foundation Community, Pride Foundation Southwest Washington Scholarship***

**Timothy Carbary** of Lacey, WA is one of eleven children from a low-income Mormon family. Timothy is a multimedia artist and currently attends South Puget Sound Community College. In his free time, Tim moonlights as a drag princess, the fabulous Kimber Lee Temptress. Tim plans to become a graphic artist producing his own LGBTQ comic book to share his life story, which he feels many people can relate to.

***Pride Foundation Southwest Washington Scholarship***

**Kara Carlson** is a 27-year-old straight ally from Fairbanks, AK. She is a passionate domestic violence and sexual assault prevention advocate. As a full time graduate student, she still finds time to volunteer with LGBTQ community organizations and has tirelessly worked to raise awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault in the queer community. She spends free time with her daughter and family, and enjoys singing.

***Pride Foundation Alaska Scholarship***

**Danielle Carver** is a 26-year-old lesbian who is completing her Associates degree at Spokane Falls Community College. Danielle would eventually like to pursue a Master's in Social Work. She has been involved in youth advocacy and strives to encourage LGBTQ and ally youth to get involved with their communities and give back whenever possible!

***Pride Foundation Community Scholarship***

**Isabel Casimiro** is a first generation college graduate and daughter of immigrant Mexican parents. She is studying medicine at the University of Washington. Her goal is to become a physician and scientist who serves the Latino and LGBTQ communities through health care, advocacy, and mentorship. She takes great pride in working to educate and bring LGBTQ sensitivity wherever she goes. As a member of the LGBTQ community, she is acutely aware of the health needs of our communities. As a physician, she would work to address the needs of queer patients with respect and empathy.

***Robert Browning, You Go Girl! Scholarships***

**Rhiannon Cates** founded her suburban high school's Gay-Straight Alliance after a three-year legal struggle with the administration. It is now the school's largest club. She plans to pursue gender and sexuality studies and political science to build a foundation for a career in queer activism in the public sector.

***Pride Foundation Oregon Scholarship***

**Lee-Ling Chen** comes from Taiwan and has been in Seattle since 2010 where she will begin the Master of Nursing program at the University of Washington. Coming out as a lesbian has made her become a person who cares about LGBTQ communities and other marginalized communities. She wants to pursue and gain more knowledge in field of HIV nursing care. Her ultimate goal is becoming an Adult Nurse Practitioner with a focus in infectious diseases. Lee-Ling was selected as a sponsored active student member in 2011 in the Seattle/Puget Sound chapter of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care.

***Pride Foundation Community Scholarship***

**Colton Cox** lives with his two moms and brother on a small hobby farm down a dirt road in a rural community. He is an avid marksman and scuba diver with a black belt in Taekwondo and a 3.85 GPA. After graduating from the University of Washington with a Bachelor's degree in Construction Management, he plans to eventually start his own construction company.

***Obrzut Ling, PFLAG Bellevue Scholarships***

**Ben Crowther** is a sophomore at Fairhaven College at Western Washington University where he is pursuing an interdisciplinary degree in Law, Diversity and Justice with a focus on the Queer experience and the interactions of Queer theory and law. As a young queer activist, he works with organizations on his campus, in Seattle and nationally. After graduation he hopes to continue queer activism and challenge the current gay civil rights paradigm.

***Pride Foundation Community Scholarship***

**William Cunningham** is a junior at the University of Washington. He is pursuing degrees in Psychology and Sociology. As a sophomore, he was involved in numerous student organizations including Queer People of Color, Queer Men's Group, the Association of Black Business Students, and the Black Student Union. William ultimately plans to become a licensed therapist specializing in LGBTQ and gender issues.

***Brian M. Day Scholarship***

**Deanna Davis** will be attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln beginning this fall to pursue a Master of Music degree in voice performance. She plans to eventually complete a Doctor of Music Arts degree in vocal pedagogy. Deanna has been a volunteer with the Evergreen AIDS Foundation and plans to continue her involvement in programs serving LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS affected communities.

***Dennis Coleman Scholarship***

**Michael Douangluxay-Cloud** is part Thai and Native American of the Huu-ay-aht First Nation Tribe. He has overcome his share of life's adversity to be the first in his family to graduate from high school and the first to get accepted into college. Michael is attending the University of Washington where he is pursuing a degree in Accounting.

***NASP Trio Scholarship***

**Truc-Vi Duong** and her family immigrated to the United States in 2006. Having learned English in high school, she will be a junior majoring in biochemistry at the University of Portland next fall, and has presented two chemistry research projects at the Oregon Academy of Science conferences. Truc is also

engaged in ethnobotany research about the Vietnamese community in Portland, Oregon and will travel to Vietnam to collect data with her professor.

***Robert Browning, Deloris Carter Hampton Scholarships***

**Celeste Endlich** is an active ally of the LGBTQ community as one of the leaders of her high school Gay-Straight Alliance. In addition to being an excellent student, she has been involved in four sports, Earth Corps, Key Club, photography. She is a volunteer at Sacred Heart Women's Shelter. She will be attending the College of Wooster in the fall.

***Scott Rodriguez Athletics Scholarship***

**Marek Elias Falk** is a law student at the University of Washington and plans to use his degree to address systemic racism and bias in the criminal justice system, such as the frequent targeting of queer people of color. Last summer, he had an LGBTQ –focused legal internship with the ACLU of Washington. He volunteers with legal clinics for LGBTQ people and homeless youth, and is the Managing Editor of the Pacific Rim Law & Policy Journal.

***Pride Foundation Community Scholarship***

**Diana Estrada-Alamo** is 18 years old and comes from an immigrant family that has been fighting for many years to achieve the American Dream. Her parents struggled through low-wage jobs to help Diana and her siblings gain access to education. She is attending the University of Pennsylvania where she studies biochemistry. She co-founded the Food Empowerment Education and Sustainability Team at her high school and is the co-chair of the Penn Queer People of Color organization.

***Kathy Spadoni Memorial Scholarship***

**Ian Feis** is originally from Mt. Vernon, WA but has spent the past few months as an intern with Lambda Legal in New York City. This term, he is working with the Albert Kennedy Trust in London, lobbying Parliament for LGBTQ homeless youth rights. He is in his final year at Lewis & Clark College where he is studying Psychology and Gender Studies.

***Political Leadership, Pride Foundation Community Scholarships***

**Molly Fitzpatrick** is a Running Start student at Eastern Washington University and is the current President of VOX: Voices for Planned Parenthood. She is a member of the Scary Feminists and the campus Pride organization. She plans to double major in Psychology and Women's Studies and hopes to eventually attain her PhD in Psychology in order to become a diversity counselor for teens. She will always be a die-hard political activist.

***Barbara Bailey, Inland Northwest Business Alliance, Pride Foundation Community, Pride Foundation Eastern Washington Scholarships***

**Josh Foley** is a 23-year-old gay man who grew up in rural Eastern Washington. He is a student at Western Washington University and has been working to create a safe and inclusive campus. Josh started Queers and Allies for Activism, created a Safe Zones Training program and worked with Woodring College of Education to make it more LGBTQ inclusive. After graduation he plans to student

teach in Spokane and add his expertise to their local LGBTQ community. Josh wants to be the positive, influential teacher that many of us have had and will always remember.

***Inland Northwest Business Alliance, Pride Foundation Eastern Washington Scholarships***

**Juan Franco** is a proud member of both the Hispanic and queer communities. He is originally from Bogotá, Columbia and is currently studying at Cornish College of the Arts working on his Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts. His art at times relates to his personal endeavors as a queer man and "ultimately forces the audience to question his identity and his ability as a human being." Juan intends to continue his studies at the graduate level and hopefully serve as a success story for members of the Hispanic and queer communities.

***Pride Foundation Community Scholarship***

**Joyful Freeman** is a 45-year-old graduate student in Public Health Nursing at Seattle University. She is particularly drawn to providing health care for LGBTQ youth and expanding the knowledge base of health care providers where LGBTQ youth are concerned. Her unwavering dedication to serving vulnerable populations is strongly influenced by her personal experience of having been a homeless queer teen. Whether she is in her role as a health care provider, a therapist, or a community organizer, her commitment to social justice underpins everything she does.

***Compassionate Care, Don Renschler, You Go Girl!, Pride Foundation Community, Group Health Scholarships***

**Corbin Gentzler** is a small business owner and student at Portland Community College. His studies in Landscape Technology are a stepping-stone to expanding his current business into a full design, build and maintenance operation utilizing sustainable practices. His love for learning and a growing self-confidence have germinated the idea to continue his studies at the University of Oregon and obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Sustainable Landscape Architecture.

***Obrzut Ling Scholarship***

**Sarah Gottesdiener** is a 30-year-old artist and musician currently in a graduate program at the California Institute of the Arts for a Master's in Graphic Design. She spent five years prior to that in Portland, OR working primarily in the field of graphic design and advertising. Despite having medical and financial challenges, Sarah remains morally grounded as an active, helpful, responsible queer feminist. She would eventually like to teach and be an artist.

***Ulrich Pischke Scholarship***

**Melinda Haines** is a 33-year-old Graphic Design student at Portland State University. Having been sidetracked from her dream to work in the arts for twelve years, she has returned to her studies and will be the first person in her family to pursue a bachelor's degree. Ever since she was young, Melinda has had an insatiable curiosity and respect for visual arts. She plans to use her skills to inspire change and encourage the LGBTQ community to "reach wide and live proud."

***Paul Arnold Scholarship***

For the past 8 years, **Kiera Hansen** has been working within LGBTQ communities in varying capacities. She is currently pursuing a Master's in Social Work from Portland State University. Through her first year of graduate school, teaching sexual health education to teenagers with Planned Parenthood, and interning with Portland Women's Crisis Line to support homeless survivors of violence, Kiera has learned that she enjoys working within non-LGBTQ specific social service agencies where queer and gender non-conforming individuals frequently have difficulty accessing appropriate resources.

***Social Work Scholarship***

**Shelley Higman** is a 31-year-old pre-med student at Skagit Valley College. She is planning to attend the University of Washington to pursue her medical degree. Research has shown that the most impact on an individual's homophobia is whether or not that person knows someone in the LGBTQ community. Shelley wants to be out front and a positive face in the community. She is hoping to return to her community of Whidbey Island and start her own medical practice, providing patients with more one-on-one time to discuss their medical needs.

***Whidbey Island Scholarship***

**April Holmquist** is a 28-year-old Apparel Design student at Seattle Central Community College. For most of her life she believed that the theater is where she belonged. Her goal is to make costumes for theatrical productions and possibly movies while working to improve sustainable business practices in the apparel industry. April is working to secure an apprenticeship with the Pacific Northwest Ballet or Teatro Zinzanni.

***Paul Arnold Scholarship***

**Rachel Jackson** is a 28-year-old transgender woman from Vancouver, Washington. She studied medical activism at Evergreen State College and is studying sciences at Portland State University in preparation for her medical school application in 2012. Her start in health care came from her experiences with illnesses in her family, insights gained from dealing with her own gender transition, and her history in the Portland activist community. She plans to bring her expertise back to the community as a primary care physician.

***Pride Foundation Community Scholarship***

**Cassandra Johnson** is in her senior year at Pacific Lutheran University completing her Bachelor's in Business with a concentration in Accounting. She is serving as the Reporting Director for Beta Alpha Psi, an honor society for financial professionals and a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, an international business honor society. Cassandra is a representative for Crossroads, a PLU confidential conversation group for students who are queer or questioning. She meets with incoming members before introducing them to the group, facilitates conversations and serves as a resource for those who attend.

***Wells Fargo Scholarship Scholarship***

**Charlie Kloub** is a 19-year-old queer, Muslim, first generation, low-income, Arab immigrant with a disability. He is empowered by the intersection of the many identities and communities he encompasses. His hope is to one day attend law school and work as a legal advocate with queer and

immigrant youth. Outside the classroom, his education continues with his work at the campus Social Issues Resource Center as a youth mentor, a community organizer, and an anti-oppression educator.

***Kathy Spadoni, Pride Foundation Community, Pride Foundation Northwest Washington, Scott.***

***Rodriguez Leadership Scholarships***

**Naomi Knoble** is a 34-year-old white lesbian and a second year doctoral student in counseling psychology at the University of Oregon. Social justice ethics are central to her research in LGBTQ issues and family violence prevention. Naomi's goal to become a research psychologist was inspired by her revelation of the potential for research to inform public policy, legal decisions, and improve the well being of all members of society. Through her scholarship and advocacy work she seeks to promote the wellbeing of everyone and move towards a future in which violence is rare and families can thrive.

***Pride Foundation Community Scholarship***

**Quintyn Leighton** is a 17-year-old straight male student planning to attend Blue Mountain Community College. He will transfer to a four-year university to complete his degree. Q cannot imagine a life without sports and plans to earn a degree in Sports Administration. He would choose to work with athletes who share his values; addressing specifically gay rights and the "don't ask don't tell" attitude in professional sports. Athletes have a vast audience and can be excellent role models for students. He is ready for what's next.

***Inland Northwest Business Alliance Scholarship***

Hailing from Bremerton, **Fernando Libor** is a 42-year-old Asian gay male who is pursuing a degree in Health care. For the past ten years, Fernando has dealt with many health challenges but he did not let that stop him from becoming a Certified Nurse Assistant but desires to do more. With further education in healthcare, he hopes to make a difference and bring greater awareness about risky behavior especially in minority communities.

***James and Colin Lee Wozumi Scholarship***

**Carnella Linder** is not afraid of hard work. As a 21-year-old African American lesbian, she is currently a foster parent of her 12-year-old nephew and will be caring for her 14-year-old niece this summer. Carnella believes in the importance of education and is a first-generation college student, pursuing her degree in Social and Human Services at Seattle Central Community College.

***Thelma Dewitty Scholarship***

**Ariana Lipkind** will begin her first year of college in the fall, seeking a B.A. in Theater and English. From personal experience as a lesbian from Missoula, she is aware of the lack of support for LGBTQ youth in many schools. Ariana hopes that in becoming an author and performer, she can follow in the steps of many of her role models by assisting youth in the coming out process.

***Pride Foundation Montana Scholarship***

As a child of refugee parents, **Jenny Lor** is fulfilling their dreams by getting a college education. As a queer person of color she is committed to social justice work and has a focus on how to best support

LGBTQ survivors of color. Jenny is currently enrolled at Lane Community College with a major in Social Work and a Women and Gender Studies minor.

***Asian and Pacific Islander Queer Sisters Scholarship***

**Austin Maddocks** is an 18-year-old high school senior from Portland, OR. He lives with his adoptive dad and older brother. He is a student leader who works with children to build leadership skills and is passionate about raising awareness about neglected and abused youth. He would like to work for a nonprofit and help struggling youth find their passions the way he did with Computer Programming, which he will be studying at Portland State University next year.

***Phil Sullivan Scholarship***

**Mary Marsiglio** is a 30-year-old Italian American lesbian from Westerly, RI. She is now in her fourth year of a Counseling Psychology doctoral program at the University of Oregon. Mary would like to build a career as a psychologist and teacher. She is committed to social change at individual, community, and societal levels. She lives with her partner, Sara, who is her source of support and encouragement.

***Pride Foundation Community Scholarship***

**Mario Mascorro** was born in Guadalajara, Mexico and spent most of his life living between Mexico and Washington State. He will be attending the University of Washington to pursue a degree in Psychology with the hopes of obtaining a Master's in Education to become a high school teacher. Coming out during high school presented challenges for Mario and he would like to assist young teens during their discovery process.

***Pride Foundation Community Scholarship***

**Jeannie Mayotte** currently lives with her partner and their three children on Whidbey Island. She says she is quite blessed with support while juggling family, work and school to obtain a Master's in Occupational Therapy. Her goal is to focus her therapy practice on the needs of children.

***Whidbey Island Scholarship***

**Colleen McNulty** is a 53-year-old Master of Public Health student at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. She is also currently a Nurse Manager of the Southwest Region Itinerant Public Health Nurses, but her degree comprises a broad public health focus. Itinerant Public Health Nurses work in small remote villages and help to address social injustice and inequities. Colleen's vision is to further increase diversity education and support throughout these communities, including the LGBTQ population. Current changes in the health care system will encourage work with communities as a whole.

***Pride Foundation Alaska Scholarship***

**Anna Miller** is a senior at Newport High School in Factoria, WA. She will begin her Associates in Art at Bellevue College with additional course work in Psychology. She then seeks a BA in Art Therapy. She has spent much time involved in her GSA and queer youth space. More recently, she photographed LGBTQ professionals and members of the community in their daily activities for her AP Photography Concentration.

***PFLAG Bellevue, Pride Foundation Community Scholarships***

**Jesse Nelson** is currently enrolled in the BA program at Seattle Central Community College. Having the opportunity to go to school is providing him with the training and skills to allow him to better serve his community. Jesse works with the Disability Office at SCCC. Growing up a ward of the state and living through the foster care system, Jesse is committed to helping those who are oppressed and marginalized so they do not have to experience the same hardships he did. Jesse is a mentor, leader, and community member who believes in helping others.

***Brian M. Day, Pride Foundation Community Scholarships***

**Christopher Newcombe** is currently working on obtaining a BA in Music Education Choral/Instrumental. His experiences with being bullied in high school and severely injured for identifying as gay in the service have motivated Christopher to build a more tolerant world. He set up safe zones at Highline Community College as well as creating a scholarship for HCC LGBTQ students. Christopher aspires to create an anti-oppressive educational environment in the hopes of getting greater student diversity engagement in the classroom.

***Dennis Coleman Scholarship***

**Heather Nichelle-Peres** is attending Pacific University in Forrest Grove, OR as a Theatre and Business double major. She is a tireless LGBTQ activist on campus and has worked directly with college administrators to prevent homophobia and educate students on LGBTQ issues. Heather lives in Portland with her wife Rae and their two cats.

***Patricia Van Kirk Scholarship***

**Andrew Nichols** is a gay male pursuing a Masters in Counseling at Seattle University. After growing up in a fundamentalist Christian home in South Whidbey where he was taught that homosexuality was a deviant lifestyle choice, Andrew came out while in the service, was promoted to Sergeant and served an honorable four years. His goal is to assist individuals to find their unique voice and inner strength.

***James and Colin Lee Wozumi, Pride Foundation Community Scholarships***

**Mo Nickerson** is a 39-year-old lesbian pursuing a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology at Antioch University in Seattle, WA. She strongly identifies with her rural, working class background and radical feminist roots. She has had a long career in nonprofit social services. Overcoming poverty, she has committed herself to working with rural communities to increase social support for women, sexual minorities, youth, and victims of abuse.

***Associates in Behavioral Health, Inland Northwest Business Alliance, McFarffels, Pride Foundation Community Scholarships***

**Joshua O'Neal** is originally from Indiana and arrived in Seattle in 2000 to attend college and ultimately earned a BA in Community Psychology & Sociology from Evergreen State College. Joshua currently works at the STD Clinic at Harborview Medical Center where he coordinates and conducts HIV testing research.

He plans to continue his focus on HIV research and prevention in his studies at San Francisco State University, where he will be working towards a Master's in Human Sexuality Studies.

***James and Colin Lee Wozumi, Tony DeBlase Scholarships***

**Cole Parke** spent several years serving and supporting queer youth in Seattle. Now resides in Harrisonburg, VA, Cole attends Eastern Mennonite University and studies Conflict Transformation at their Center for Justice & Peacebuilding. For an openly queer, self-described West Coast liberal, the decision to study at a private Christian institution in the South was an intentional challenge and has been incredibly rewarding. Cole has worked closely with Soulforce Q Equality, a project dedicated to engaging higher education institutions into reconsidering their LGBTQ discrimination policies.

***You Go Girl! Scholarship***

**Joshua Parrish** is graduating a year early from Nampa High School in Nampa, ID and heading off to American University in Washington, D.C. to pursue a dual degree in Political Science and International Relations. Joshua is the founder of Nampa High School's Diversity Alliance and Captain of the Speech and Debate Team. He plans to use his education and opportunities to fight for equal rights for all, regardless of sex, race, sexual orientation, class, or physical or mental disabilities.

***Political Leadership, Pride Foundation Community, Pride Foundation Idaho Scholarships***

**Clint Posey** is a student at Evergreen State College in Everett, WA currently working on a thesis about the regulation of homosexuality in 19<sup>th</sup> century Paris. He speaks French fluently and studied for three semesters in Paris, where he volunteered in the Library of Le Centre LGBT. His future plans include working on his "drag" persona and pursuing a graduate degree in History, specializing in LGBTQ history.

***Scott Rodriguez Athletics Scholarship***

**Brian Prester** is studying Global Studies and minoring in Asian Studies at the University of Washington in Tacoma. A pilot and flight instructor by trade, he aspires to be an airline pilot. Brian is a gay Korean African American who believes that higher education is society's answer to many global issues, including social justice and environmental sustainability.

***Brian M. Day Scholarship***

**Nitika Raj** has been active in anti-violence and social justice work for over seven years and is currently the Board Chair of Trikone Northwest, serving the South Asian LGBTQ community. Nikita is fluent in Hindi and grew up in Kuwait, where she first developed an interest in arts and activism. She is committed to making mental health services more accessible to people impacted by oppression, including communities that are LGBTQ, poor/low income, people of color, immigrants and refugees, and survivors of violence.

***Pride Foundation Community Scholarship***

**Kyle Rapinan** is a multiracial queer student in Seattle, WA studying Political Science at the University of Washington. He is a lead activist for Queer Youth Space, a city-funded, youth-led cultural space opening in 2011. Kyle has overcome homelessness, homophobia, and harassment to become an empathetic

community organizer.

***Pride Foundation Community, Wells Fargo Scholarship, Scott Rodriguez Leadership, Donald O. Coffman Scholarships***

**Harlan Reidmohr** is a freshman at Montana State University studying history and music. He is most proud of living his life exactly the way he wants it lived: in the open and without secrets. Harlan wants to become an opera singer and touch people's hearts with the sound of his voice.

***Pride Foundation Montana Scholarship***

**Kashmir Reier** is pursuing a degree in Graphic Design with a minor in LGBTQ studies from Western Washington University. She currently works in the Sexual Awareness Center on campus and aspires to be the Coordinator of the Women's Center. After college, she hopes to become an art director and work with the queer community.

***Pride Foundation Northwest Washington Scholarship***

**Carlos "Fezz" Reyes** is an 18-year-old Latino full time student who happens to be gay. He is currently working on receiving his transfer degree at Skagit Valley College and would like to attend Washington State University to pursue a degree in Veterinary Sciences. Fezz has worked with LGBTQ groups in his hometown of Mt. Vernon, WA to raise awareness on issues the queer community is facing. Despite being kicked out of his parents' home last June, he refuses to give up or let that impact his future goals.

***Phil Sullivan, Pride Foundation Community, Lee S. Burke Scholarships***

**Colby James Rezayat** is attending Western Washington University as a student of human services and psychology with an emphasis on LGBTQ issues. He is particularly interested in studying bullying and its effects on LGBTQ youth. Colby is a Board Member and Secretary of Skagit PFLAG, co-facilitates an LGBTQ youth group, and has completed over 750 internship hours at Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services.

***Pride Foundation Community, Pride Foundation Northwest Washington Scholarships***

**Leah Rimington** is from Vancouver, WA and has been a full time Running Start student for the past two years and will be graduating this year from Clark College. She is involved with many student organizations including Queer Penguins and Allies, the local Gay-Straight Alliance, Penguin Liberation Front, and the National Honors Society. Next year, Leah will attend Portland State University and will be pursuing a degree in International Studies. She hopes to go on to a career where she can continue doing harm reduction and social justice work.

***Pride Foundation Community Scholarship***

**Erasmio (Moe) Ruis-Gonzalez** is a student of Criminology/Criminal Justice at Portland State University. As a gay Latino he used to feel like an outsider on campus, but with the encouragement of a writing professor, Moe found his voice and has never again doubted his ability to succeed. He aspires to attend Harvard Law School and become an advocate for equal access to higher education.

***Pride Foundation Oregon Scholarship***

**Marcus Santos** is an Interior Design student at Washington State University and an AmeriCorps Alum. Having moved to Seattle in 2005, Marcus has volunteered with the MPowerment program at Lifelong AIDS Alliance in delivering harm reduction education to young gay men. He plans to earn his Bachelor's in Interior Design and a Master's in Architecture with hopes of teaching design in Washington State.

***Pride Foundation Eastern Washington Scholarship***

**Jason Saunders** is a 21-year-old gay student from Vancouver, WA currently attending Pacific Lutheran University where he is studying Music Education and Composition. He has twice served as Assistant Conductor of the PLU men's Chorus and several of his choral compositions have been published and performed by ensembles across the country. After graduating from PLU, Jason plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Choral Conducting before teaching in public schools.

***Cole Family, Dennis Coleman, Pride Foundation Southwest Washington Scholarships***

**Zara Sedove-Mallin, 17**, will be graduating from Sammamish High School this June. They were a founding member of the 'We Need Queer Youth Space' Project, and have toured and educated with the 'Reteaching Gender and Sexuality' campaign for about two years. They will be attending Mills College in the fall, and pursuing a public policy degree.

***Political Leadership, Pride Foundation Community Scholarships***

**Erica Sekins** is an activist and educator. She is currently a Master's student at the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Administration, focusing on queer and disability policy. She works as the Graduate Student Assistant at the University of Washington Q Center and is deeply invested in their social justice vision and mission. Erica works to coordinate UW policy advocacy efforts, particularly as they are relevant to transgender and gender variant communities.

***Pride Foundation Community Scholarship***

**Simone Senn** is a third year undergraduate student at Western Washington University studying Recreation with a focus on Environmental Education and Women's Studies. Identifying as a Nez Perce feminist lesbian Catholic environmentalist, Simone has been a Girl Scout for almost 16 years and works to empower youth at camp every summer. Having worked as a Resident Advisor on Western's campus for two years, she was involved with the residential LGBTQ and Ally program and will be the Resident Advisor for Western's first gender-inclusive housing program next year.

***McFarffels, Pride Foundation Community Scholarships***

**Oceana Shearer** became the vice president of her school Gay-Straight Alliance in McMinnville, OR this year. She is working with her school community to address LGBTQ discrimination. Childhood experiences with abuse, homophobia, and homelessness have motivated Oceana to pursue studies in psychology and education with the hopes of working to end discrimination in order to support young people in navigating development challenges and thriving towards a healthier future.

***Phil Sullivan Scholarship***

**Jackson Shultz** identifies as pansexual and is from Waitsburg, WA. Jackson graduated from Dartmouth College and is pursuing a degree in Women's Studies with a minor in Queer Studies. Jackson is now pursuing a graduate degree in Globalization Studies. Jackson is appreciative of the support received from Washington State University Department of Women's Studies and organizations like Pride Foundation. Jackson would like to provide mental health services for transgender youth of color in the future.

***James and Colin Lee Wozumi, Pride Foundation Community, Pride Foundation Eastern Washington, Scott Rodriguez Leadership Scholarships***

**Jordan Simonson** is a 25-year-old Clinical Psychology graduate student at Seattle Pacific University. His current research project, Youth PREVAIL, is informed by his personal experiences with minority stress and strength. By examining the mechanisms by which LGBTQ youth come to experience increased rates of depression and anxiety, he hopes his research will allow interventions to be developed to reduce psychopathology from affecting the LGBTQ community in the future.

***Scott Renschler, Pride Foundation Community Scholarships***

**Rachael Snyder's** first word as a baby was "Kee-kat". It should be no surprise that the only career she's ever seriously considered is to be a veterinarian. Animals played an important role in supporting her through a rocky adolescence and coming out process. Rachael says: "I hope to share my experience and help other people in the world to love and respect animals."

***You Go Girl! Scholarship***

**Diego Solares** is a native of Guatemala raised in Boston and attended the University of California in Irvine. Upon completing his Master's in Public Health at the University of Washington's Department of Global Health, he will begin a Master's in Public Policy program at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He gained a passion for global sexual health while studying abroad in Thailand and Brazil. He served as a Clinton Fellow in India, a Global Health Corps Fellow at Partners in Health, and a consultant at the Pan American Health Organization.

***Bill Bendiner and Doug Morgenson, Robert Browning, Political Leadership, James & Colin Lee Wozumi Scholarships***

**Shannon Solie** is a 28-year-old queer female Psychology student at Seattle University with a passion for outreach and education. Shannon's goal is to become a licensed sex therapist with a focus on transgender family therapy. She plans to offer herself as a resource for those transitioning, their family and friends who is queer-friendly, and as an ally for all parties involved. Shannon has taught workshops to medical professionals and patients at Gilda's Club, Swedish Hospital, the University of Washington, and Seattle Cancer Care Alliance to name a few.

***Tony DeBlase Scholarship***

**Ryan Stabler** is an 18-year-old student at Portland State University pursuing a Bachelor's in Child & Family Studies and Social Work. While growing up in the rural suburbs of Portland, he helped create The Living Room, a youth drop-in center specifically for queer youth and their allies - the first drop-in center of its kind in Clackamas County. He worked as an intern for Basic Rights Oregon where he created and

led anti-racist community trainings for youth and adults. He plans to work with children and act as a parent educator to better the lives of LGBTQ youth.

***Pride Foundation Community Scholarship***

Born and raised in Portland, OR, **Leandra Stanley** is an undergraduate student at Willamette University double-majoring in Sociology and American Ethnic Studies. Since high school, she has been actively involved in various student-led groups that focused on the advancement of marginalized groups in her school and broader community. Through her toughest times, from trying to navigate through Catholic high school as a queer teen to getting brain surgery in college, to her proudest times including the creation of a social justice spoken word club and her coming out about her sexual orientation, Leandra is motivated to continue to help marginalized people succeed.

***Pride Foundation Community Scholarship***

**Evan Swope** is an undergrad at the University of Washington who is pursuing a degree in Communications and Digital Art/Experimental Media. He is passionate about creating queer-positive media that challenges the trivialization of violence. After earning his degree, Evan would like to travel and study abroad, possibly in Slovakia or Australia.

***Jack D. Motteler Scholarship***

**Harumi Angela Taniguchi** is a second year MEd Counseling program student at Seattle University. For the past ten years, she has been a strong advocate for social justice in the Seattle community. Because of her own circumstances, Angela went into school counseling with the goal of serving marginalized students. For her, that means creating spaces that allow for student growth as their full selves and define their own success. As an out queer woman, Angela is passionate about creating programs that will serve as system-wide interventions to address issues such as suicide, bullying, and punitive behavior management for LGBTQ youth.

***Scott Renschler Scholarship***

**Josh Taylor** is a student of Graphic and Motion Design at Cornish College of the Arts. He is a bridge-builder and an advocate for equity, as demonstrated by his work as a Resident Assistant committed to building an inclusive community at his school. Josh, whose hometown is Nampa, ID, is committed to a creative process that that serves function before aesthetic.

***Paul Arnold Scholarship***

**Corey Trimble** is studying Architectural Interior Design at Marylhurst University in Portland, OR. Growing up he was a primary provider for his mom and sister, and he shares that “discovering who I am is my biggest accomplishment.” He is committed to applying what he has learned from his own life to help others.

***Paul Arnold Scholarship***

**Rafael Velazques** is pursuing a legal education with the hopes of empowering LGBTQ immigrant communities. Born and raised in Eastern Washington – where he was first exposed to immigration

issues and homophobia, Rafael works as a Peer Educator for Entre Hermanos, a Latino LGBTQ HIV Prevention organization. Identifying as a Mexican American, first-generation student and queer man of color, Rafael became involved with different LGBTQ and Latino social justice organization as a student at the University of Washington.

***Pride Foundation Eastern Washington Scholarship***

**Aaron Vetter** will graduate in 2012 with degrees in Political Science and Spanish where he hopes to work in international relations and diplomacy. We are pleased that Aaron is a participant in Pride Foundation's Summer Fellows program and is working with the Seattle LGBT Commission as a result. Aaron plans to attend graduate school, possibly enter the Peace Corps and eventually would like to work at the State Department.

***Pride Foundation Community Scholarship***

**Danny Wakefield** was born in a small, rural Midwestern town. Danny has approached the experience of being the only lesbian in that town- and later embracing his transgender identity - with courage and openness. In addition to his focus on Deaf Studies and Special Education at Seattle Central Community College, he works in the Seattle School District, provides respite care for teenagers with autism and playing Lady Gaga songs on his ukulele.

***Scott Rodriguez Athletics, Pride Foundation Community Scholarship***

**Jessica Warmbo** is a junior in the School of Social Work at the University of Washington. After graduation, she plans to earn a Master's in Social Work and use her degree to support social justice work in the queer community. Some of her proudest accomplishments include teaching a course called Queer 101, serving on her school's curriculum committee and calling out heterosexism, transphobia and homophobia in everyday situations.

***Derivative Duo, You Go Girl!, Pride Foundation Community Scholarships***

**Meredith Williams** is a PhD candidate at Western State University in Sociology. For her dissertation she is looking at the connection between victimization and delinquency for queer youth. Upon completion of her PhD she plans to find a faculty position where she can continue to change the worldview of undergraduates and keep breaking new ground in queer-related research.

***You Go Girl!, Pride Foundation Community Scholarships***

**Samantha Williams** will graduate in December with an English Literature degree. She will then pursue a Master's in Gender Studies. She is an advocate for the women's community and LGBTQ society, finding her place in the ever-changing civil rights movement. Sam has coordinated Montana State University's Queer Straight Alliance, worked with Pride Foundation in Montana, and earned numerous recognitions including the Edith R. Mirrieless Prize for Creative Writing.

***Pride Foundation Montana Scholarship***

**Cory Winter** is a 21-year-old gay male student at Idaho State University studying Political Science. He plans to continue his education with a Law Degree from the University of Washington and assist in the

development of a Queer Studies Certificate Program. Higher education is the key to his career goals; to become a leader; to invoke his civil rights as a human; to demand his right to be free from persecution and intolerance. As his well laid out career progresses, he fully intends to be elected President of the United States of America.

***Pride Foundation Idaho Scholarship***

**Christopher Wukasch** has completed two years with AmeriCorps as a reading tutor and his first year at Evergreen State College. He is studying environmental education and interning with the Nisqually River Education Project where he leads field trips for elementary school students. This summer you can find him pursuing more environmental work as an intern at Mt Rainer.

***James and Colin Lee Wozumi, Pride Foundation Community, Pride Foundation Southwest Washington Scholarships***