

# SEO Scholars Program

Spring 2008

Program Update

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS OF 2011

- > Second Year of pilot Achievement Gap Initiative
- > 282 applications from students at 45 NYC public high schools
- > 140 students interviewed and tested using new diagnostic tools
- > 68 students (35 boys and 33 girls) from 26 schools accepted as 9th grade Scholars
- > 88% are Black or Latino/Hispanic

## Talented 9th Graders Join Scholars Program

**282 9<sup>th</sup> graders from the five boroughs competed for space in the Scholars Program.**

A cohort of 68 talented high school freshmen from 25 New York City public high schools has been admitted into the Scholars Program.

As the second class in SEO's 4-year pilot **Achievement Gap Initiative**, these students will participate in a rigorous academic program to prepare them for admission and success at competitive colleges and universities.

Scholars have more than 220 hours of in-class academic

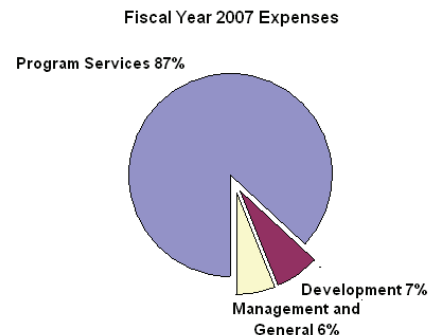
time annually -- **adding the equivalent of 48 school days to the 180-day public school calendar** -- devoted to critical reading, critical writing, vocabulary, grammar and mathematics.



Parents attended new student Orientation at NYU Law School where SEO holds Saturday Academy classes.

## 87% of SEO Expenses go to Program Services

SEO strives to keep administrative and fundraising expenses low. In the 2007 Fiscal Year, these expenses were 6% and 7% respectively. With low overhead, 87% of expenses go toward supporting our innovative programs.



## Young Entrepreneurs



Evin Robinson—Young Entrepreneur of the Year

**The National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) Biz-camp** curriculum is incorporated into the SEO Summer Academy, and is funded by the Goldman Sachs Foundation.

Students are introduced to the concepts and practical components of entrepreneurship, and engage in math and business learning, acquiring not only practical skills but a sense of how to apply these skills to real-world situations.

Student teams create business plans, budgets and marketing materials for a business idea they develop, and participate in a business plan competition.

Evin Robinson, 17, a graduating high school senior is one of 25 students from around the country named **Young Entrepreneur of the Year** at the NFTE National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge. Evin will attend Syracuse University in the fall.



## College Scholars

With the academic preparation they've received in the Scholars Program, our college students are succeeding – their average G.P.A. is 3.2. College

Scholars study at Bard, Barnard, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Hamilton, Harvard, NYU, MIT, Trinity and Vassar among others.

## Retreats Support College Success



SEO freshman and sophomore College Scholars attended the Winter Retreat

Ninety-six freshman and sophomore College Scholars, many enrolled at top-tier colleges, attended the SEO Winter Retreat at NYU Law School in January. Funded by Lehman Brothers, the retreat focused on developing academic skills, building relationships with college professors and administration, honing interviewing skills for summer internships and de-

veloping professional conduct and etiquette.

Later this spring, SEO will host the three-day College Success Series for graduating 12th graders. These workshops serve as the launching pad for students before they head off to college, providing them with the strategies to ensure their academic success.