



SEO Scholars Program

Spring 2009

Program Update

CLASS OF 2009

More than 87% of Scholars in the Class of 2009 received offers of admission to a college ranked Most, Highly or Very Competitive by Barron's *Profiles of American Colleges*.

Colleges include:

Amherst College
 Barnard College
 Bates College
 Brown University
 Columbia University
 Dartmouth College
 George Washington
 Harvard University
 Johns Hopkins
 MIT
 Mount Holyoke
 New York University
 Occidental College
 Rice University
 Trinity College
 U. of Chicago
 U. of Pennsylvania
 Vassar College
 Wesleyan University
 Williams College
 Yale University

SEO Scholars Program—a Model for Closing the Achievement Gap

The supplementary education model implemented by the SEO Scholars Program was recently cited as an effective means for closing the academic achievement gap between white and minority students.

Results of the math and reading tests administered by **The National Assessment of Educational Progress** (NEAP) show that the **No Child Left Behind** law fails to close this gap. Although there have been some improvements in student achievement in middle school, the gap persists during high school.

In a *New York Times* article (April 29, 2009) Freeman A. Hrabowski III, President of the University of Maryland Baltimore County, states: "Where we see the gap narrowing ... there's been an emphasis on supplemental education, on after-school programs that encourage students to read more and do more math problems."

An important component of the SEO model is the time Scholars spend in rigorous academic preparation classes — up to 300 hours annually.

Class of 2009 Scholarships and Awards

- ◆ Scholars in the high school graduating Class of 2009 have been awarded more than **\$850,000** for their first year of college.
- ◆ Five SEO Scholars are among the 37 New York State winners of the **Gates Millennium Scholarship**, which funds up to ten years of undergraduate and postgraduate education.
- ◆ An SEO Scholar was one of 12 New York City high school seniors to receive a four-year **New York Times College Scholarship**.
- ◆ Three SEO Scholars were awarded full tuition scholarships through the **Posse Foundation**.



Impressive SAT Scores



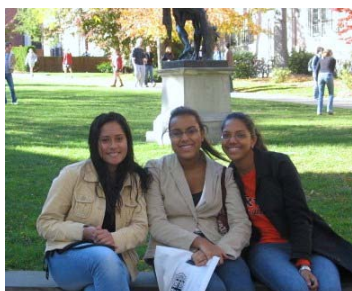
Scholars participate in SAT preparation classes beginning in 11th grade.

We see solid evidence that the academic methods of the SEO Scholars Program lead to impressive SAT results — the mean score for Scholars in the high school graduating Class of 2009 is 1616, an increase of more than 150 points above their PSAT score (the three PSAT and SAT sections are resolved to an 800-point scale).

SAT scores correspond to family income: the higher the income range, the higher the SAT score. Although the median annual family income of SEO Scholars is less than \$36,000, students attained SAT scores comparable to those of students with household incomes four times higher (\$160,000 to \$200,000).

According to the College Board,

Teagle Foundation Funds Skidmore Partnership



Twelve Scholars will attend Skidmore's Pre-College Program this summer.

The Teagle Foundation has awarded SEO and **Skidmore College** a three-year grant to support the College-Community Connections Partnership.

The foundation's support will enable 12 SEO Scholars for each of the next three summers to participate in

Skidmore's five-week **Pre-College Program**, where they can earn up to six college credits.

After the summer, Scholars will return to SEO for 12th grade, enriched by this taste of college life at Skidmore, one of the most competitive colleges in the nation.

Productive Summer Ahead for SEO College Scholars



With 52% of grades reported, the mean spring 2009 GPA for our College Scholars is 3.26.

SEO continues to work closely with SEO Scholars while they are in college, helping to ensure college graduation. In 2008-9, the Program served 165 students attending 84 colleges nationwide.

College Scholars will spend

this summer enrolled in academic programs, or will hold internships at organizations such as the Manhattan District Attorney's office, HBO, Showtime Networks, Goldman Sachs, the Fresh Air Fund, the New York Women's Foundation and NYSE Euronext.