Welcome to the Provost Scholars Spring Semester

Welcome to 2015! We are excited to see our Provost Scholars return for the spring 2015 semester. This year we have exciting new activities planned, including a field trip to Niagara Falls to discover the history and scenery of the falls in New York. Niagara State Falls Park is America’s oldest state park and will provide the Scholars with an opportunity to discover interactive exhibits, vista points and trails, the Cave of the Winds Tour, the Aquarium of Niagara and more. More details about this event scheduled for mid-April will be provided in the coming weeks.

Other events planned for this semester include guest speakers for the Thursday seminars. Lecturers who will be sharing during the seminars include community organizer Trevelle Harp from the Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH), Professor Kiju Lee in the Robotics Engineering department at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), and Professor Ruqaiijah Yearby from CWRU’s School of Law. The Provost Scholars will also have an opportunity to learn from speakers specializing in public policy, yoga, resume writing and more. For complete information about field trips or upcoming Thursday seminars, please contact the Program Manager, Katrice Williams, at kyw@case.edu or call (216) 368-5368. Questions can also be addressed to the Program Director, Dr. Faye Gary, at fgary@case.edu or (216) 368-5240.

Winter Celebration 2014

The Provost Scholars Program celebrated their second annual Winter Celebration in the Thwing Center Atrium on Thursday, December 11th. The Provost Scholars, their mentors and parents, East Cleveland City Schools’ principals and administrative staff, other CWRU leaders and community members were all in attendance to celebrate the contributions of the Scholars during the fall semester. The Progeny, a group of Shaw High School musicians and instrumentalists, and mentor Dr. Robert Walser also provided welcoming ensemble music for the attendees. Special guests included Dr. Nancy Johnson, a long-time supporter of the program, representatives from the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, Pastor Shaun Braxton of New Life Cathedral Church, and Dr. Terry Mills, a professor at John Carroll University.

The Winter Celebration also featured poems by Provost Scholar Brianna Moore and personal mission statements from Jamir Claytor, Tommy Bibb, Ryiane Nathan, Octavia Taylor, Marshon Wilson and Jayme Mullins. Mentor Dr. Lee Thompson stood with her mentee Maranda Priah and they shared their most memorable experiences and accomplishments from the semester. Together they have completed a resume, outlined career plans and visited several attractions on CWRU’s campus including ThinkBox, a center for students, faculty and alumni to develop innovative ideas and inventions. The next program celebration will occur in the spring of 2015.
Ohio’s 529 Savings Program

If saving towards college or another post-secondary opportunity is a concern for you, the College Advantage 529 Savings Plan may be a good option. The 529 Savings Plan offers lower-fee, quality investment options for the account holder to select and manage a college savings account, including easy-to-manage, age-based options. Direct investments are managed by Vanguard, Fifth Third Bank, PIMCO, and General Electric (GE) Asset Management Company.

A second option is the Coverdell Educational Savings Account. The Coverdell plan is similar to a Roth IRA, or retirement fund, because contributions are non-deductible from your annual tax returns and grow tax free. To open an account, the parent or guardian must make an initial $25 contribution and after the account has been established they can add up to $2,000 each year until the recipient’s 18th birthday. Withdrawals are also tax free for qualified higher education expenses. Some of these expenses may include tuition and fees, books, supplies and equipment, and in more limited cases, room and board. For information about the College Advantage 529 Savings Plan, visit www.collegeadvantage.com. Please visit http://www.savingforcollege.com/coverdell_esas/ for information on the Coverdell Account.

January Words of the Month

Organize: To form as or into a whole consisting of interdependent or coordinated parts, especially for united action.

Vitality: To develop the continuation of a meaningful or purposeful existence.

Circuitry: The science of designing electric or electronic circuits.

Cold weather throughout the Greater Cleveland area has shuttered many public and private schools, including the East Cleveland School District. Despite the falling temperatures in January, the Provost Scholars returned on January 20th. Their dedication highlights one of the key attributes of a Provost Scholar — perseverance. They have not only persevered in their effort to beat the winter weather, but also in their pursuit of higher education. A commitment that is emblematic of a true Provost Scholar!

Provost Scholars Group Facilitator

The Provost Scholars Program have added a new group facilitator, Imani Scruggs, from the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS). He will be working with the Provost Scholars on Thursday afternoons during their regular seminars. Imani is a first-year student at MSASS majoring in Community Practice for Social Change with a specialization in Children, Youth, and Families. Imani also attended Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) as an undergraduate student and majored in Psychology.

Imani has assisted with starting up and rejuvenating multiple black student initiative programs on campus and he has worked in two high schools, Shaw High School in East Cleveland and John F. Kennedy High School in Cleveland. In addition, he has worked with the nationally recognized Alchemy, Inc., a program which helps urban, adolescent males develop a sense of purpose in life and thrive as members of their family, school and community. Imani will graduate with a master’s degree in Social Administration in 2016.

Contact Information

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, speaker, or stakeholder, please call 216-368-5240 or e-mail provost-scholars@case.edu.