

Lincoln Foundation – Executive Summary

2011-2012 Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program®

Program Description and Participants

The Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® recruits academically talented, economically disadvantaged seventh grade students in the Louisville Metro area, and over a six year period, prepares them for high school graduation and successful transition into college. This preparation includes:

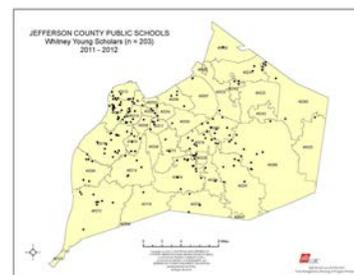
- Introducing more structure into the Scholar's personal environment
- Enhancing the Scholar's self-esteem
- Facilitating parental/guardian advocacy for each Scholar
- Enhancing cultural awareness
- Maintaining and improving the Scholar's academic performance
- Developing the Scholar's values, character, and ethics
- Providing positive peer and mentor interaction for the Scholar in a stimulating environment that is conducive to learning

The acronym YOUNG means “Youth **O**rganized to **U**nderstand **N**ew **G**oals”.

Evaluation Results

Summary Table

Grade Phase	Program Retention Rate	Program Attendance	# Scholars Suspended	School Absenteeism	Pre-Post Content Test
12 th grade Phase 17	86%	No Change	No Change	Increased (1.4)	NA
11 th grade Phase 18	88%	No Change	Decrease	Decreased (1.5)	Increased ACT Scores
10 th grade Phase 19	97%	No Change	Increase (2)	Increased (0.6)	Increased Shakespeare
9 th grade Phase 20	80%	Decreased	Decrease (2)	Decreased (0.8)	Increased Writing
8 th grade Phase 21	87%	Decreased	Decrease (1)	Decreased (1.7)	Increased Math
7 th grade Phase 22	NA	72%	3	5.0 days	Increased Science
TOTAL	89%	Slight Decrease	Slight Decrease	Decreased	*****



Commendations

- ❖ This year WYSP added participants from 14 schools that did not have any participants the prior year.
- ❖ 80% of tenth grade students or higher have been a program participant for at least 4 consecutive years.
- ❖ Scholars have significantly improved school attendance over last few years.
- ❖ The percent of 11th graders with a composite ACT score of 20 or higher made significant gains (27% to 51%).
- ❖ Numerous scholars feel a sense of community and enjoy the people.
- ❖ 100% of all Senior Scholars plan on attending college
- ❖ 90% of all scholars, 87% of the Senior Scholars, and 98% of the Scholar Parents said that they would recommend WYSP to other students
- ❖ 100% of the Senior Scholars said they felt “very prepared” or “prepared” for taking college coursework.
- ❖ Parent Institutes were rated consistently very high, and 88% of the scholars said that they “enjoy learning.”

Recommendations

- 1) Continue working on getting a higher percentage of parental participation. Even though the Parent Institutes are rated high, the attendance needs improvement.
- 2) Continue working on math for 8th graders with a focus on ACT.
- 3) Improve the number of students that complete both the pre- and the post-tests. There was a noticeable decrease in the number of students that completed both tests (this year 63%).
- 4) Increase the number of students that have the end of year survey (this year 63%).
- 5) Continue recruitment of participants from all schools.