

» *A Mother's Story* Overcoming Adversity Through Education

Gangs, drugs, violence, and thugs; this was the life Whitney M. YOUNG Scholar, Marsha "Lynne" Tinsley was exposed to during her teen years. Lynne's mother, Marsha Tinsley, is grateful for the positive influence the Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® has been in her life and the important role the program played in shaping her daughter's future.

Despite a difficult childhood filled with instability and emotional turmoil, Lynne Tinsley was a straight A student throughout elementary and middle school. One of Marsha's fondest memories is a comment a teacher at Kenwood Elementary wrote on one of Lynne's papers, "One day Lynne is going to be President."

Tragically, Lynne's father died in 1990 when she was eight years old. Marsha tried to raise her as best she could as a single parent in one of West Louisville's most crime infested neighborhoods. In 1995, when Lynne was in the eighth grade at Lassiter Middle School, Marsha was injured in an automobile accident. Her injuries were so severe; she and Lynne were forced to move in with Marsha's parents. It was during this difficult period of adjustment that Lynne began to rebel against authority. The death of her father combined with her mother's injuries caused Lynne to become angry and rebellious. Street gangs such as the "Bloods" began to influence Lynne. Marsha said, "against my wishes, Lynne painted her room red (symbolic color of the "Bloods" gang),

wore red clothing, and had her arm branded. I feared for her safety and prayed for help."

Marsha's prayers were answered when Lynne was accepted into the Lincoln Foundation's Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® while attending Central High School. "Angels stepped in to help my daughter," Marsha stated recalling the overwhelming sense of relief she felt. Marsha made a commitment to the program and ensured that her daughter never missed an Educational Clinic. After becoming a Scholar, Lynne's rebellious behavior and attitude changed. She was exposed to a different, positive peer group of academically talented young people, and began to see that she was headed down the wrong path. Her self-esteem improved and she became more goal oriented. "She wanted to learn and become somebody," said Marsha.

After Lynne graduated from Central High School and the Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® in 2000, she had difficulty



Marsha Tinsley (left) and her daughter Lynne.



Marsha "Lynne" Tinsley

in selecting a college to attend. Marsha recalled a visit from a U.S. Navy recruiter during Lynne's senior year of high school. Marsha shared, "I was totally surprised when Lynne announced she was joining the Navy. Thanks to the Lincoln Foundation Scholars Program, Lynne was exposed to different cultures, places, and people outside her neighborhood. This encouraged her to want to travel and see the world as well as pursue an education while serving her country."

When asked why she decided to join the Navy, Lynne stated during a recent telephone conversation, "my best friend died and I just felt that I needed to get away for a while."

Today, Lynne is serving in the U.S. Navy with the rank of E-6, Petty Officer First Class, owns her own home, and is stationed in Norfolk, VA. She was nominated for the Sailor of the Year Award in 2006. When asked about her plans for the future, Lynne said "I'm not sure what I want to major in, but I may take college courses and attend officer training school."

Dear Friends,



The Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® is a unique and distinguished educational program in our community because of the Parental Institutes. Parental Institutes are seminars for

parents and legal guardians of our Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars. The theme for the 2007-2008 seminars is Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise. Parents/guardians meet on the third Saturday of each month during the academic year. They participate in seminars designed to provide critical information to enable them to be better advocates for their Scholar(s). The seminars would not be possible without the generosity of our sponsor, National City. National City leaders have provided essential information to our parents on financial literacy to include saving and investing, predatory lending, managing credit, and foreclosure. Thanks to our partnership with Jefferson County Public Schools, information has been provided on conflict resolution, understanding assessment test scores, how to select the best school, and closing the achievement gap. Louisville Metro Health & Wellness seminars addressed personal health accountability and the total well-being of the family with information shared on strokes, dental hygiene, nutrition, and obesity. As we are all aware, parent participation is at the core of our students' academic achievement. I am extremely proud of the enthusiasm displayed by our parents who actively participate in the Parental Institutes. I am awed by the magnitude and spirit of volunteerism as evidenced by the success of special events such as the annual Holiday Brunch and Evening of Jazz fundraiser. Lincoln Foundation is truly blessed with a phenomenal group of Scholar parents. Many thanks to our partners and parents for being champions for education.

» Scholar Highlights

Conquering the Fashion World



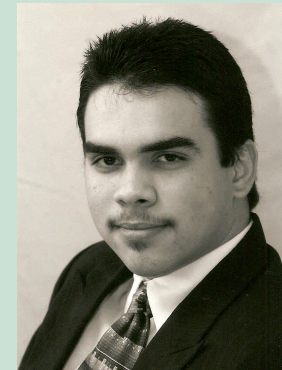
Benecia Williams once had the desire to become a forensic scientist; instead she is conquering the competitive world of fashion design. Benecia is the

middle child in a family of five and the second in her family to graduate from college. Her parents never finished high school. Benecia is a graduate of the Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars class of 2001 and earned a Bachelor's degree in Fashion Design & Merchandising from Clark Atlanta University in 2006. While at Clark, Benecia had the opportunity to study in London, England. Benecia credits the Lincoln Foundation with encouraging her to read and pointing her in the right direction. During a recent conversation, Benecia said "the Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® staff gave me sincere encouragement and helped me prepare my vision for success and I want to say thank you. This program really works to help young people succeed. I would not have made it without the financial assistance provided by the Lincoln Foundation. Being chosen to study abroad in London, England for fashion design was the most challenging, life-changing, exciting experience one could ask for. I enrolled in classes such as fashion journalism, eveningwear, and fashion styling. The culture, fashion, history, and legacy I inhaled everyday while studying in Europe was confirmation for me that 'this' (becoming a fashion designer) is truly what I want to do and I am willing to take the necessary steps and sacrifices to get there." Benecia has worked in merchandise management positions at Abercrombie & Fitch, Fem Deluxe boutique, and LOOK Magazine. She interned with two publicity firms in Los Angeles, Rogers and Cowan and Team IMAGE, which allowed her to work with talent on the red carpet for the Grammy, Soul Train Music and ESPY Awards. She worked for a well known designer, DeanZign, and has had dresses appear on magazine covers such as Essence. Currently, she is a technical designer with Bon Chic Bon Genre (BCBG) in Los Angeles, CA. Benecia explained, "a technical designer is the middle person between the designer and mass

production. I handle everything in between. I work with the patternmakers and our vendors to ensure the proper construction and fit for a garment. I attend fittings, and do a lot of measuring. I correspond over e-mail a lot to China about the delivery and construction of garments. There is a lot of paperwork as well. Overall, I am responsible for the fit and construction of a garment." Benecia's ultimate career goal is to become a menswear designer. Look for designs by Benecia on the red carpet or coming to a store near you.

In His Own Words

Pedro Garces Tamayo wrote a letter of thanks to the Lincoln Foundation for providing financial support, guidance, mentoring, and nurturing throughout his college years.



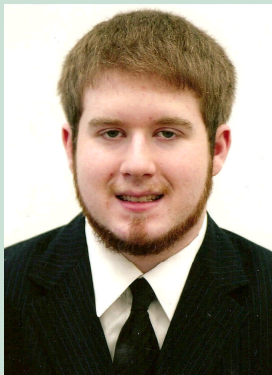
I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your motivation and scholarship. Your dedication has tremendously helped me reach my educational dreams and

career goals. The Bachelor of Science degree in Telecommunications Systems Management from Murray State University will fully equip me to enter the IT (Information Technology) arena and reach the potential of a true Whitney M. YOUNG Scholar. Growing up in Bayamo, Cuba under an oppressive government that did not allow its people to voice their ideas and opinions has made me thankful for the wonderful opportunities the Lincoln Foundation has provided me. Coming from that situation, I feel happy and proud to reach this level of success which would not have been possible without your mentoring since my high school years. You instilled in me the fire to continue learning, and I will pursue a graduate degree in Information Technology; keeping in mind all of the useful tools you have equipped me with to reach my potential. Once again, thank you very much to all the mentors, dedicated staff, contributors, Ms. Faye Owens and Mr. Larry McDonald.

Pedro is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Information Technology at Sullivan University. The Lincoln Foundation continues to provide financial assistance as Pedro continues to pursue his career goals.

A Life-Changing Experience

The Lincoln Foundation's Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® continues to have a profound impact on youth. For a recent Educational Clinic assignment, senior Scholar Julion Cowan was asked to share his thoughts about the Program.



The Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® has affected my life in many ways. I am going to tell you what matters most to me. I have learned so much about people of different

cultures throughout my attendance in the Program that I will never forget. Every person on earth deserves respect. When I first joined the program, I was very reclusive and didn't want to really get to know anybody. Now I am one of the most outspoken people in the class of 2008 and have become friends with everyone. I have continuously been told by teachers of the Scholars program and Lincoln Foundation staff to always pursue my dreams and never give up. I have taken this encouragement to heart and even applied it in the "real world." I learned that nothing is ever given to you and in order to get what you want you have to earn it. The Summer Institutes taught me respect and responsibility. After being in the program for over three years I realize that nothing in life can make-up for true happiness unless it is something that you can connect with. If I had never joined the program I don't know whether or not I would have ever come to acquire all of the knowledge and exposure I have obtained. I am truly thankful for all I have learned as a Whitney M. YOUNG Scholar.

Julion is a senior at Ballard High School and has been selected as a finalist for the Bonner Scholarship at Rhodes College.

Our Mission

To provide educational enrichment programs that develop and support youth in overcoming barriers to achievement.

Did You Know...



Students at the Portland Library Reading & Math Tutoring Program.

rights organizations, entertained foreign students from U of L's International Center, and supported "Clothe-A-Child" efforts. The Louisville Chapter has donated to Women's Health Initiative-WINGS, Metro United Way Book Harvest, Katrina hurricane victims, and the "Dress for Success" program. Members volunteer for Jefferson County Public Schools Every 1 Reads initiative and serve as speakers for the Lincoln Foundation's Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program®. The Girl Friends Fund, Inc. provides college scholarships to deserving youth. Two Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars received renewable scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 in 2006 and 2007. Most recently, The Girl Friends, Inc. donated \$375 to the Lincoln Foundation to help defray the cost of food for the after school reading and math tutoring program held at the Portland Library. This year the 73rd Annual Conclave of the Girl Friends, Inc. will convene in Louisville May 22 through May 25 at the Galt House Hotel.



Students at the Portland Library enjoying a meal thanks to The Girl Friends, Inc.

Evening of Jazz



Lincoln Foundation is pleased to host its annual Evening of Jazz fundraiser at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 16, 2008 at The Kentucky Center. This event is designed to provide an evening of great entertainment, but most importantly to raise funds for the Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program®. Jazz and blues vocalist Cynthia Scott is the featured artist. Visit Ms. Scott's website at www.cynthiascott.com to hear samples of her recordings. Once again, we are counting on your support to benefit a very deserving group of talented young people. Tickets are \$50 and will be available soon at The Kentucky Center.

2008 Calendar of Events

- May 31** Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® Senior Banquet
Bellarmine University - Frazier Hall
6:00 p.m. Tickets - \$25
- June 2 - July 27** Math & Science Program
University of Louisville
1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. Registration Fee - \$75
- June 2 - June 27** Project BUILD
University of Louisville College of Business
9:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon
- WYSP Summer Institutes:**
- June 1 - June 13** Northern Kentucky University
June 8 - June 20 Centre College
July 6 - July 18 Georgetown College
- June 2 - 13** Computer Camp
Lincoln Foundation - Computer Lab
9:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon
- July 23 - Aug. 2** Hands On/Minds On
University of Louisville
8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
- August 16** Evening of Jazz Fundraiser
The Kentucky Center - Bomhard Theater
7:00 p.m. Tickets - \$50
Proceeds benefit Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program®.
- August 23** Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program®
Opening Educational Clinic for 2008-2009 Academic Year
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Contact Lincoln Foundation at 502.585.4733 or www.lincolnfdn.org for more information.

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Seeking Educational Program Alumni and Volunteers

If you are a past participant or graduate of the Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program®, Math & Science Program or Project BUILD we want to hear from you. Do you have a special talent or skill you would like to share? The Lincoln Foundation seeks volunteers for our special events, fundraisers, tutoring, and Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program®. Please call or contact the Lincoln Foundation at www.lincolnfdn.org.