

Lincoln Foundation – Executive Summary 2012-2013 Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program®

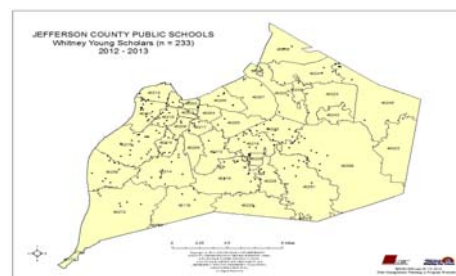
Program Description and Participants

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. There are three primary components: Educational Clinics, Parental Institutes, and Summer Educational Programs. The Educational Clinics are designed to develop and enhance the Scholar's skills in science, mathematics, writing and language development, conflict resolution, Shakespeare, oration and presentation, ACT preparation, and college readiness. Clinics are held at local area colleges twice a month during the academic year. The Parental Institutes are seminars designed to help parents become better advocates for their Scholars. Topics address financial literacy and planning, adolescent behavior, conflict resolution, stress management, leadership development, understanding test scores, and how to select the best school. Meetings are held once a month during the academic year. The Summer Educational Programs for grades 7-9 prepare Scholars for future courses in math, science, and technology. Summer Institutes for grades 10-12 allow Scholars to spend two weeks on a college/university campus. This academic and residential experience prepares them for their upcoming school year and future college life.

Evaluation Results

Summary Table

Grade Phase	Program Retention Rate	# Scholars Suspended	School Absenteeism	Pre-Post Content Test
12 th grade Phase 18	100%	Increase (1)	Increased (3.6)	NA
11 th grade Phase 19	97%	No Change	Increased (1.6)	Increased ACT Scores
10 th grade Phase 20	100%	Increase (4)	Increased (2.0)	Increased Shakespeare
9 th grade Phase 21	98%	Decrease (1)	Increased (1.1)	No Change Writing
8 th grade Phase 22	96%	Decrease (3)	Increased (0.3)	Increased Math
7 th grade Phase 23	NA	4	4.4 days	Increased Science
TOTAL	98%	Increased	Increased	Increased



Commendations

- ❖ All except one JCPS middle school has had at least one WYSP in the past two years,
- ❖ The retention rate was extremely high at 98% (typically in mid to upper 80% range),
- ❖ All seniors graduated,
- ❖ Sixty (60) new Scholars were added to this year's seventh grade class,
- ❖ 64% of the 11th and 12th grade Scholars have participated in WYSP for 5 or more years,
- ❖ Half of the 11th graders have a composite ACT score of 21 or higher (both pre and actual test were higher than previous year),
- ❖ The Scholars in all but one phase made significant growth between the pre- and post-tests,
- ❖ The Scholars significantly outperformed the district on all but one state assessment,
- ❖ 100% of all Senior Scholars plan on attending college and have received at least one acceptance letter,
- ❖ 100% of the Senior Scholars and 100% of the Scholar Parents that complete the surveys said that they would recommend WYSP to other students ,
- ❖ 94% of the Senior Scholars said they felt "very prepared" or "prepared" for taking college coursework, and
- ❖ Parental Institutes were rated consistently very high on the evaluations.

Recommendations

- 1) Administer the student survey to all participants,
- 2) Examine the 9th grade pre- and post-test scores to determine what caused the lack of growth that typically occurs,
- 3) Continue working on getting a higher percentage of parental participation, especially second semester. Even though the Parental Institutes are rated high, the attendance drops significantly in the new year,
- 4) Improve the number of students that complete both the pre- and the post-tests. This was a second consecutive year of decreasing numbers of students that completed both tests (2011-2012: 63%, 2012-2013: 59%), and
- 5) Consider using on-line surveys to increase the number of responses.