

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NINETY-NINE DIVERSE STUDENT LEADERS EARN ACT SIX LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS TO SEVEN NORTHWEST AND FIVE MIDWEST COLLEGES

Families, schools, and communities are celebrating across the country. Act Six announced today that 99 emerging urban and community leaders across Tacoma-Seattle, Portland, Spokane, Yakima Valley, Chicago, Indianapolis, and Minneapolis-St. Paul, will receive scholarships to George Fox University, Gonzaga University, Heritage University, Northwest University, Pacific Lutheran University, Warner Pacific College, Whitworth University, Augsburg College, Bethel University, North Central University, Taylor University, and University of Northwestern-St. Paul. Colleges will provide full-tuition, full-need scholarships over four years.

Selected through a rigorous three-month competition among more than 1,000 applicants, these diverse student leaders were selected for their commitment to serving on campus and at home, passion for learning, eagerness to foster intercultural relationships, and willingness to step out of their comfort zones.

The media and public are invited to attend the following community celebrations to recognize the newest Act Six scholars:

- **Indianapolis** - Monday, Mar. 13, at 6 p.m.
- **Spokane** – Monday, Mar. 13, at 6 p.m. at Gonzaga Preparatory
- **Portland** – Monday, Mar. 13, at 6:30 p.m. at David Douglas High School
- **Tacoma-Seattle** – Tuesday, Mar. 14, at 6 p.m. at Urban Grace Church
- **Minneapolis-St. Paul** – Tuesday, Mar. 14, at 6 p.m. at Urban Ventures
- **Chicago** – Tuesday, Mar. 14, at 6:30 p.m. at Lawndale Christian Health Center (Skyline Room)
- **Yakima Valley** – Wednesday, Mar. 15, at 7 p.m. at Hope for the Nations Foursquare Church

Launched in 2002 by the Northwest Leadership Foundation (NLF) in Tacoma, Act Six seeks to develop urban and community leaders to be agents of transformation on campus and in their home communities. Since the program's inception, 90 cadres of ethnically diverse and mostly first-generation, low-income Act Six scholars from Tacoma, Seattle, Portland, Spokane, Yakima Valley, Chicago, Indianapolis, and Minneapolis-St. Paul have enrolled at twelve Northwest and Midwest colleges and universities.

As a leadership development and college access and retention initiative, Act Six accomplishes this mission through the following model:

- **Recruit and Select:** Locally recruit and select diverse, multicultural cadres of a region's most promising emerging urban and community student leaders.
- **Train and Prepare:** Intensively train these groups of students in the year prior to college, equipping them to support each other, succeed academically and grow as service-minded leaders and agents of transformation.

- **Send and Fund:** Send the cadres together to select faith- and social justice-based colleges on full-tuition, full-need scholarships.
- **Support and Inspire:** Provide strong campus support, ongoing leadership development and vocational connections to inspire scholars to serve their home communities.

To date, 83 percent of the 615 scholars who have started college have graduated or are still enrolled – reflecting graduation and retention rates that far exceed national averages. Several Act Six scholars are assuming significant leadership roles on campus, including numerous club presidents, 10 student government presidents and a board trustee.

Nearly two-thirds of Act Six alumni have brought their degrees back home to serve and lead in their communities, and more than 30 percent are pursuing or have earned postgraduate degrees. Together, these passionate and collaborative alumni are leading in their communities to live out the Act Six mission.

Scholars often express the impact Act Six has on their lives through their words. “I love being a part of Act Six. The community and friends it has provided me with have made my college experience and life so much better,” says one Act Six scholar at Gonzaga University. “I am blessed...this is a life changing opportunity filled with great experiences,” says another scholar at Warner Pacific College.

Following is a list of this year’s Act Six recipients:

Whitworth University (Cadre Fifteen)

Manny Abbo, *Joel E Ferris High School*
 Jose Aguilera, *Central Valley High School*
 Maria Alvarez, *Lakeside High School*
 DeVonte Gorman, *East Valley High School*
 Lesley Baeza, *Mount Rainier High School*
 Abranna Romero-Rocha, *Lincoln High School*
 Damian Sanchez, *Stadium High School*
 Karishama Vahora, *Health Sciences Human Services High School*

George Fox University (Cadre Eleven)

Pilialoha Ahina, *Gresham High School*
 Ajelet Fonseca, *Newberg Senior High School*
 Vicky Fuentes, *Tualatin High School*
 Josiah Greene, *Roosevelt High School*
 Anna Heye, *Westside Christian High School*
 Alex Lopez, *Tigard Senior High School*
 Julio Lopez-Hernandez, *Roosevelt High School*
 Noah Tewelde, *De La Salle North Catholic High School*

Pacific Lutheran University (Cadre Ten)

Aziza Ahmed, *Auburn Mountainview High School*
 Carlos Alvarez, *Clover Park High School*
 Joey Grabowski, *Curtis Senior High School*

Salma Ibrahim, *Federal Way Senior High School*
Mackenzie Kinsella, *Puyallup Senior High School*
Yvonne Markub, *Mount Tahoma High School*
April Reyes, *Mount Rainier High School*

Northwest University (Cadre Nine)

Calysta Bauer, *Home School*
Marco Estrada, *Federal Way Senior High School*
Aimee Ingabire, *Kent-Meridian High School*
Sina Pritchard, *Clover Park High School*
Jasmin Rodriguez, *Clover Park High School*
Kenisha Tabb, *Bethel High School*
Grace Torres, *Tacoma School of the Arts*

Gonzaga University (Cadre Nine)

Patricia Alvaro, *Central Valley High School*
August Corppetts, *Gonzaga Preparatory School*
Melanie Francis, *Lewis And Clark High School*
Jacob Hill, *On Track Academy*
Felecia Bazie, *Garfield High School*
Aisha Burka, *Franklin High School*
Malcolm Duncan, *Bellarmino Preparatory School*
Ronnie Estoque, *Cleveland High School*

Warner Pacific College (Cadre Eight)

Manuel Angulo, *Academy of International Studies Woodburn*
Brianna Garcia, *Forest Grove High School*
Yersalem Gebremedhin, *Liberty High School*
Annalisa Green, *David Douglas High School*
Lashawn McCarthy, *Roosevelt High School*
Destiny Miteg, *McNary Senior High School*
Kal Rivera, *Tualatin High School*
Abigail Tamay, *Alliance High School at Benson*
Angeles Valenzuela Cervantes, *Gladstone High School*

Heritage University (Cadre Seven)

Nelson Avila Mendoza, *A C Davis Senior High School*
Estefani Cruz, *Wapato Senior High School*
Irwin Godinez Cruz, *Toppenish High School*
Stephanie Maybee, *Selah High School*
Yanet Torres, *Zillah High School*

Augsburg College (Cadre Three)

Shamsa Ahmed, *Tartan Senior High School*
Shawn Daye, *Robbinsdale Armstrong High School*
Ash Farah, *South High School*
Pierre Lawhon, *Brooklyn Center High School*
Jada Lewis, *Edison Senior High School*

Jessica Mendoza, *Roseville Area High School*
Lay Lay Zan, *Como Park Senior High School*

Bethel University (Cadre Three)

Whitney Cottrell, *Hope Academy*
Leslee Gutierrez Carrillo, *Saint Louis Park High School*
TyTeeona Howard, *Washburn Senior High School*
Pam Lebert, *Nova Classical Academy*
Malachi Lossow, *South High School*
Roland Osagiede, *Brooklyn Center High School*
Meti Regassa, *Edina High School*
Lizzie Sanchez-Sanchez, *Burnsville Senior High School*
Chameer St Urbain, *Breck School*
Kanee Yang, *Central High School*

University of Northwestern-St. Paul (Cadre Three)

David Anleu, *Lakeville North High School*
Kimberly Eras, *Hope Academy*
Johnny Erickson, *Hope Academy*
Stephany Lopez, *Park Center IB World High School*
Esther Ojebode, *Hope Academy*
Pa Chia Thao, *Highland Park Senior High School*
Bereket Tumebo, *Central High School*

North Central University (Cadre Two)

Aliyah Caples Becker, *Osseo High School*
Yeng Her, *Park Center IB World High School*
Celeste Hofstede, *Coon Rapids High School*
Gabby Knight, *Maranatha Christian Academy*
Alejandra Llerena, *Columbia Heights High School*
Noah Newbauer, *Brooklyn Center High School*
Lindsey Semrau, *John F Kennedy Sr High School*

Taylor University (Cadre Two)

Anna Dennis, *Whitney M Young Magnet High School*
Danny Magallanes, *Saint Joseph High School*
LaShae' Mobley, *Christ King Jesuit College Prep*
Alejandra Reyes, *J S Morton High School East*
Nate Rivera, *Intrinsic School*
Madeja Sims, *Johnson College Prep*
Aidden Tapia, *Chicago Hope Academy*
Emmanuel Terrell, *Mount Carmel High School*
Yanira Trujillo, *Ies Schamann*
Nate Canales, *Ben Davis High School*
Rachel Gray, *Warren Central High School*
David Hnanga, *Perry Meridian High School*
Daniel Korrie, *Arsenal Technical High School*
Patience Korrie, *Arsenal Technical High School*

Prisilla Sui, *Perry Meridian High School*
Austin Tobey, *Home School*

Following next week's celebrations, scholars begin an intensive six-month training program that involves weekly meetings with Act Six staff, retreats and campus visits.

Learn more about Act Six online at www.actsix.org.

Contacts:

Taylor Tibbs, Act Six Tacoma-Seattle Program Manager, Northwest Leadership Foundation, (253) 272-0771 ext.114 or ttibbs@northwestleadership.org

Adam Ristick, Director of Scholarships and Internships, Portland Leadership Foundation, (503) 477-3255 or adam.ristick@portlandleadership.org

Francis Chau, Act Six Spokane Program Supervisor, YMCA of the Inland Northwest, (509) 720-5613 or fchau@ymcaspokane.org

Amber Ortiz-Diaz, Act Six Yakima Valley Director, Yakima Leadership Foundation, (509) 930-0474 or amber.ortiz-diaz@actsix.org

Derick Familara, Interim Act Six Chicago Director, Pursue Scholars, dfamilara@pursuescholars.org

Cletis Jones, Act Six Indianapolis Director, Shepherd Community Center, (317) 375-0203 or cletisj@shepherdcommunity.org

Benny Roberts, Act Six Twin Cities Site Director, Urban Ventures, (612) 455-4608 or benroberts@urbanventures.org

Tim Herron, Act Six founder and president, Degrees of Change, (253) 444-0010 or tim.herron@degreesofchange.org

Marianne Hansen, Director of Admissions, Whitworth University, (509) 777-4347 or mhansen@whitworth.edu

Ryan Dougherty, Executive Director of Admissions, George Fox University, (503) 554-2246 or rdougherty@georgefox.edu

Brandon Bruan, Associate Director of Admission, Pacific Lutheran University, (253) 535-8724 or bruanbj@plu.edu

Andy Hall, Director of Traditional Admissions, Northwest University, (425) 889-5212 or andy.hall@northwestu.edu

Julie McCulloh, Dean of Admission, Gonzaga University, (509) 313-6591 or mcculloh@gu.gonzaga.edu

Dale Seipp, Vice President for Enrollment and Marketing, Warner Pacific College, (503) 517-1024 or dseipp@warnerpacific.edu

Celestino Limas, Vice President of Student Affairs, Heritage University, (509) 865-8580 or limas_c@heritage.edu

William Mullen, Vice President of Enrollment Management, Augsburg College, (612) 330-1740 or mullen@augzburg.edu

Bret Hyder, Director of Admissions, Bethel University, (651) 638-6438 or bret-hyder@bethel.edu

Choua LeMay, Admission Counselor, University of Northwestern-St. Paul, (651) 631-5593 or clemay2@unwsp.edu

Bill E. Green, Director of Multicultural Engagement/Community Outreach, North Central University, (612) 343-4786 or begreen@northcentral.edu

Steve Mortland, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing, Taylor University, (765) 998-5134 or stmortland@tayloru.edu