



University of Houston-Downtown



March 1, 2010

Dear Potential Giver:

As the Scholars Academy (SA) nears completion of its 11th year of **educating students and graduating leaders**, many accomplishments have been achieved by members of the Scholars Academy. Program experiences, including faculty-mentored research, internships, faculty-sponsored seminars and fieldtrips, and high-quality STEM course work, continue to “catapult” SA graduates into **top** State and National professional and graduate schools, annually. Some of the more outstanding successes include:

- ✓ Over 800 undergraduate members to-date
- ✓ Over 40% six-year graduation rates of full-time FTIC cohorts
- ✓ Over 350 Scholars Academy alumni members to-date
- ✓ Overall 34% continuance rate to post-baccalaureate education
- ✓ Admissions to flagship institutions of post-baccalaureate education, such as: Arizona State University; Baylor College of Medicine; Baylor University; Columbia University; John Hopkins University, Penn State University; Prairie View A&M University; Rice University; Texas A & M University; Texas Tech University; University of Houston-Central; University of Maryland; University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston; University of Texas Health Science Centers – Houston and San Antonio; University of Texas - Pan American; University of Texas Southwestern - Dallas; and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

This spring, the Scholars Academy undertakes one of its most important challenges to-date. We are asking SA Alumni members to strongly consider participation in the **Scholars Academy 1st Annual “Pay It Forward” Alumni Fundraising Challenge!** Our goal for this year’s annual campaign is to raise **\$75,000 by May 1, 2010!** Concurrently, SA undergraduates have been asked to accept the SA 1st Annual “Pay It Forward” Community Service Challenge. Through individual and peer mentor group projects, **current SA members** target “Pay It Forward” by reaching for a goal of 15,000 hours of community service in the spring semester! In the spirit of true partnership, the Scholars Academy has also challenged the College of Sciences & Technology **faculty and staff** to participate in this SA 1st Annual “Pay It Forward” Fundraising Challenge, as well.

We want to include the Houston industrial and corporate community, in joining us, in whatever manner they can, in becoming part of the **Scholars Academy 1st Annual “Pay It Forward” Fundraising Challenge!** You can be an integral partner in this important fundraising campaign. No gift goes unnoticed, or unappreciated. Even in this uneasy economic climate, supporting proven programs remains critical to institutions like the UHD’s Scholars Academy. Designated as a Hispanic-Serving and Minority-Serving Institution, UHD’s Scholars Academy (SA) population mirrors that of the larger institution.

The **UHD Scholars Academy (SA)** is an academically competitive program in the College of Sciences and Technology (CST) that promotes scholarship and student success for undergraduate students majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (1T34GM079088), National Science Foundation (0336612, 0402623, 0728408), U.S. Army Research Office (W911NF-04-1-0024), U.S. Department of Education (P120A070025), Joint Admission Medical Program (K-2-01024), The Brown Foundation, Welch Foundation (BJ-0027), UHD Donors

SA members are comprised of 50% female and over 50% minority. Over 57% of the Scholars Academy students maintain grade point averages from 3.5 to 4.0 (over 29% are within a highest range of 3.81 - 4.0). The Scholars Academy's motto is "**Educating Students...Graduating Leaders!**"

We set high expectations from which the Scholars Academy was established, and from which it continues to flourish. We call upon you, now, to join with us in setting another bar of expectation for the SA by participating in "**Paying It Forward Fundraising Challenge.**" Your participation in this challenge will support others in reaching their academic potential and advancing America's future, just as you have.

Several contribution levels are presented for your consideration in beginning, or sustaining, a fundraising partnership with the Scholars Academy program. Accompanying material will outline the various contribution levels. Plus, it specifies the easy process/options to contribute.

In the coming decade, our Scholars Academy program stands to produce graduates, who will become ever more influential to the science, engineering, mathematics, technology, and healthcare arena as well as to our country's sustained world leadership efforts. Your participation in this "**Pay It Forward**" campaign can make a difference. Join me in contributing to this worthwhile program.

We genuinely appreciate your continued partnership (or newly established partnership) with the Scholars Academy in the UHD College of Sciences and Technology.

Sincerely,



Mary Jo Parker, Ed.D.
Director, Scholars Academy

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