



Mission Statement

The mission of Emerging Scholars Program (ESP) is to provide an academic and social enrichment program for a diverse group of students who, without financial assistance, could not consider an independent school education. Established by a consortium of Northern Virginia independent schools, ESP's program includes academic, social and emotional support to prepare students for success in independent schools and beyond.

Peer Impact

Philanthropic Impact Starting Early: Grace Moses and Sophia Carbonell

What possibly would two middle school young ladies who have never met have in common? And we do not mean hair color (they don't) or the same school (they don't). What they have both done is to garner support for ESP in two unique ways by virtue of their passion for the program based on the students they have met.

On a cold fall day, Ruth Hazel Little received a call from a parent at a school that does not participate in ESP to inquire about how her daughter could make arrangements for others to donate to ESP. Grace Moses had met Alvarez LeCesne driving a group of ESP students and remembered how impressed she was with what ESP was doing for boys and girls her age who were less fortunate than she. For her Bat Mitzvah in January, Grace requested that in lieu of the customary monetary gifts, that ESP be the beneficiary of her family's and friends' generosity through donations. Not only did ESP make a new friend in Grace, but Grace was able to spread the word about ESP to the families who participated...and did they participate!

Sophia Carbonell is a rising sophomore at Flint Hill School in Oakton, VA. Her father, in his wisdom and vision, has established a family foundation. Sophia and her siblings are responsible for presenting the case to the foundation for supporting particular charities. Sophia is classmate and friend to several ESP Cohort 3 graduates. This past fall, she successfully secured a generous grant for ESP on behalf of the foundation!

ESP is inspired by the initiative and positive impact these smart, resourceful, enterprising young ladies took to benefit ESP. At a reception in June, Grace and Sophia met for the first time. Who knows what they will come up with in the future? We are so proud of the girls and their families for encouraging them and providing them with opportunities to become examples of the power of our teens!

ESP Board

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 - Jeff Sindler,
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 - Seth Ahlborn,
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 - Ruth Hazel Little,
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 - Ryane LeCesne,
Director of the Scholars Academy
- Alvarez LeCesne
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Bob Gregg
Robyn Mathias
Donald Myers
John Thomas
Thomas Whitworth
- Betty Tomlinson,
Executive Administrative Assistant

Help ESP Congratulate Cohort 7

After putting in hardwork and dedication, Cohort 7 will be taking the stage for graduation Friday, August 12 at 10 AM in the Loft at Burgundy Farm Country Day School. Friends of ESP have deemed graduation as a hallmark of the Scholars Academy program. We invite our community of Board of Directors, donors, alumni families, and friends to join us in celebrating the success of Cohort 7



ESP Leadership Changes

Since ESP's inception in 2002, as Executive Director, Alvarez LeCesne has been a pivotal contributor to the program and its success. After much consideration, he has announced his retirement, effective June 2011. During his tenure with ESP, he has touched the lives of over 100 students not to mention their siblings, immediate and extended families. We are incredibly grateful for his commitment to the program and impact that will remain with the program for many years to come.

Stepping up to fill the role of Executive Director is Ruth Hazel Little. Ruth has a long relationship with ESP through her position as Director of Development since the program's founding. Ruth is looking forward to "playing off the best of Alvarez and moving ESP into the next generation." (see Directors Corner)

Ryane LeCesne, currently program director, will be increasing her responsibilities as she becomes Director of the Scholars Academy. With the seven-week summer session underway on June 27, Ryane has masterfully executed planning a curriculum focusing on academic excellence and leadership skill development. Seventeen new young scholars in Cohort 8 join thirteen in Cohort 7 for the most intensive segment of the ESP program.

Honoring Alvarez LeCesne

A Parent's Thanks

"I want to share my opinion about Mr. LeCesne, I feel proud that I know him personally. He is a great educator and wonderful organizer. In fact, in my 40 years of life, I have never met a more balanced, humbled, kind, polite, hardworking and sincere personality like him. His humbleness taught me a lot, especially how to meet and greet people, and how to handle any difficult situation. I strongly believe he is a natural educator and an educator never retires. He has a lot of God's gifted patience and energy. We will always be grateful for the miracles he did for us. Because of him, my Son Shaheer is able to get on a track where he can achieve his dream of getting a good education."

Hafeez Syed, Parent of Shaheer Syed, Cohort 7



Director's Corner

It is truly a pleasure and an honor to assume the role of Executive Director of the Emerging Scholars Program. Alvarez has put his heart and soul into ensuring that ESP attracts and retains top qualified students for the program. Based on the success of our graduates who are enrolled in over twenty DC area independent schools and beyond, the program has a firm foundation. Ryane LeCesne, as Director of the Scholars Academy, will continue to carry through our mission and help to ensure that our success rates only get stronger with every new cohort.

My primary goal for the next year will be to expand the presence of ESP so that it is no longer the well-kept secret it appears to be. By working with the board of directors, I hope that ESP will become sustainable into the future. We are so fortunate to have committed, grateful families that have come through the program and are still amazed everyday at how ESP changes their lives. Developing a parent network that will keep graduates and their families connected to ESP will help us to identify even more qualified students and become a source of mentors for those new to ESP. As the saying goes, once an ESP family, always an ESP family!

ESP is truly a grassroots organization and, as such, our needs are long, so every gesture or gift is appreciated. From items for the classroom, or sponsoring a field trip, to monetary donations and volunteering, we welcome your items, interest and energy!

Later this summer, we plan to launch an updated web site and if you are a regular newsletter reader, you notice that this edition has a brand new look. Special thanks to Emily Richards and her PR team for freshening up our face as we enter the next generation of ESP! Please stay in touch with us and email or call if you would like to learn more about opportunities to be a part of the new ESP!

Announcements

- Welcome Cohort 8! Class of 2012.
- Dates to Remember:
**ESP Graduation:
Friday, August 12,
2011 at Burgandy Farm
Country Day School.**
- Special thanks to Alex Erkiletian of Erkiletian, Inc. for his work on ESP's new promotional video. To view the video, check out his YouTube Channel at <http://www.YouTube.com>
- A huge thank you to Jeff Sindler, head of school, and his team at Burgandy Farm Country Day School for hosting ESP classes. Students love the farm-like atmosphere... and the pool in the summer!



**Educating children,
Shaping lives,
Preparing leaders**

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Notes of Gratitude

Dear Alvarez, Ryane, Ruth, and Betty:

I have attached Chris's transcript for his first year at Saint Stephen's and Saint Agnes. He has made the Dean's List for his third semester in a row!

I want to thank the Emerging Scholars Program for giving Christopher the opportunity to attend such a fine school as this. The summers spent in ESP were difficult for Chris, but in the end they paid off handsomely. It was also time consuming for us as parents, but well worth the time and effort and convincing Chris that there was a purpose, even if at the time he could not see it immediately see it around the corner.

I cannot thank you enough and I can see in the future continuing to offer ESP gratitude on behalf of our family. This was truly a collaborative effort.

Special thanks to you Alvarez, for driving Chris and all the other students to ensure that they did not miss one beat at ESP.

Always the best,
Cecilia Farrell, mother of Christopher Reid, Cohort 6

A Family Affair

Multiple Siblings Attend the Scholars Academy:

"It's a family affair. It's a family affair. One child grows up to be somebody that just loves to learn..." are the famous lyrics from the 1971 hit song by Sly and The Family Stone. Cohort 8 exemplifies that ESP truly is a family affair.

This summer, Cohort 8 welcomes four alumni Scholars' siblings to the Scholars Academy! Over nine short years, ESP has been working hard to gain the trust of our families. The efforts of our staff and faculty are evident in our families' commitment to the 14-month program with not just one child, but with two and three children. What an HONOR and a journey!!



The four Cohort 8 Scholars who are blazing new trails along side their alumni siblings are Victor Nguyen (sister Kelly Nguyen C6), Paul Deya (brother Marcel Deya C5), William Reid (brother Christopher Reid C6), and Hanad Ahmed (sisters Hibaq and Hodman Ahmed).

The essence of ESP is a family affair. The trust and relationships built over time are marked by your willingness to continue to commit to a very "expensive" and life changing opportunity for your children and families.

We want to hear from you!

Do you prefer to receive our newsletter by email, hard copy or both? Remember to include your preference on our reply card (attached in PDF format to your email).