

EMERGING SCHOLARS PROGRAM



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ESP RECEIVES \$50,000 GRANT

ESP is pleased to announce that it has received a grant for \$50,000 over two years from the Claude Moore Foundation. Funds will directly support the program's young scholars.

The Claude Moore Charitable Foundation grant will fund salaries for faculty to provide individualized and small group instruction and guidance for its students. ESP's goal is to successfully place its bright, talented fifth graders from Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia into participating area independent schools. This grant will also help provide continuing assistance and leadership development to its graduates.

Dr. Claude Moore established The Claude Moore Charitable Foundation "to enhance educational opportunities...for young people in Virginia and elsewhere." Since its founding in 1987, the CMF has awarded 194 grants, including 39 this year.

Local builder, ESP Chairman and founder Edward R. Carr states "both the Claude Moore Foundation and ESP work to change the lives of boys and girls so they can achieve success in school and beyond. ESP is thankful to the CMF for its support and is excited about the opportunities provided by the grant."

To make a contribution towards the matching funds or for additional information about ESP, please go to the www.emergingscholarsprogram.org and click on "Funding/How to Give."

RUTH HEATH JOINS ESP AS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Greetings, Everyone!

It has been my pleasure to join the ESP Staff and the Board of Directors in a joint effort to assist students from under-represented backgrounds to enter the private school sector. I was asked to take the position of Director of Education after consulting with Alvarez LeCesne, Executive Director. Daily, I learn more about the program which heightens my appreciation and expectations for the future.

Education has been my focus for over 35 years. After attending the University of Southern California and being a member of the Los Angeles Unified School System for a number of years, our family moved to the Washington, D.C. area. We settled in Columbia, MD where I experienced most of my career goals and aspirations before retiring from the Howard County Public School System three years ago.

My experience in the public school arena has been evenly divided between teaching and administration. I have instructed all grade levels, K-6. Each level provided lessons in uniqueness and promise. The years spent in administration afforded me the challenges and privileges of working with professionals to shape instruction and programs and to bring about changes and outcomes aimed toward specific goals.

In June of 2003, my husband and I moved to Virginia to be near family. We are actively involved in the lives of our two young granddaughters and we look forward to continuing this practice. I have also become active with the Loudoun County Public School System as a substitute teacher where I have learned more about the educational focus in the state of Virginia.

The chances of retiring from the job you love and then finding an opportunity to continue what you liked most are highly unlikely for many of us. I consider myself very fortunate to continue my love of working with children and their parents by serving ESP. *Ruth Heath*

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.

PREPARATION FOR SUMMER SESSION NEARLY COMPLETE

ESP SNAPSHOTS:



Cohort 2 in a celebratory moment before graduation

Spring at ESP is full of change and preparation. Saturday sessions are nearly complete and Class 3 is anticipating its second ESP summer, their final stage before graduation in August. Students have been accepted into their placement schools and will prepare their final speeches while finalizing their ESP education. Please read our September newsletter to find out what special surprise is being planned for our graduates!

Cohort 4 is nearly formed and students hail from as far away as Washington, DC, Rockville and Temple Hills, MD to Leesburg and Dumfries, VA. In addition to our new students in Cohort 4, ESP has two new faculty members. Dany Garcia and Dionne Osuji will teach technology and language arts respectively. Marsha Fuller who taught technology to Cohort 1 will



Anthony and Makena work on a computer project during Saturday classes.



Cohort 3 on a field trip during the 2006 Summer Session

return as math teacher. Education director Ruth Heath is pleased with not only the caliber of these teachers, but she says, “the children who come into the program will see themselves reflected in the faculty. A core value of ESP is to promote a diversity which

reflects the world in which we all live.”

After three years at Episcopal High School, ESP classes are relocating to Flint Hill School in Oakton VA. To accommodate students from the Alexandria area, ESP will for the first time offer bus service. Leadership is a critical focus at ESP and this summer, with the guidance of Hank Berg, headmaster of Highland School in Warrenton, VA, a leadership experiential education component will be incorporated into the curriculum. Other exciting activities and field trips will also supplement the strong academic program.

The annual Orientation Picnic will be held once again on Father’s Day June 17. New and returning families as well as graduates, their families and ESP board members are invited to this welcoming event.

ESP PARENTS ARE “TRULY GRATEFUL”

From time to time, ESP receives heartfelt letters and emails from students or parents. We would like to share the following letter which was written by ESP parents to Alvarez LeCesne in 2006.

“Just wanted to say thank you again for giving Lucinda and our family the opportunity to join ESP. I have one question however: what have you done to our child?”

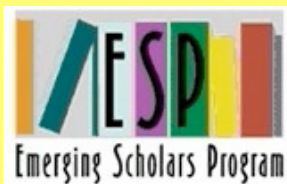
It’s been three weeks now and as soon as Lucinda gets into the car she starts talking about her day at ESP. We no longer have to coax information out

of her. As a matter of fact, I don’t think we’ve had to ask her, “How was your day?” since her first day. She quotes her teachers on a daily basis: “Mr. Pete said this...” or “Mr. LeCesne said that...” We thought she would resent having to spend the same amount of time on homework in July as she did in May while the rest of the kids are doing the things of summer. However, she can’t wait to open a textbook and demonstrate some of the new concepts she has learned. Last week it was “Ms. Lee taught me something in math that I never knew!”

My husband and I realize that this is excitement about learning. We also realized that this was something we had not seen in our daughter since her first days in first grade. And for that, Mr. LeCesne, as parents we are truly grateful.

We look forward, as does Lucinda, to this next year as part of the ESP family. The summer has been a lot of hard work, a lot of coordination, and it is absolutely wonderful to see the results. With sincere appreciation to you and all the ESP staff”

Janice and Willie Brown



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