CREATING HEROES THROUGH EDUCATION AND SERVICE

annual report 2009-2010
A young person’s life-long success begins with an education. Access to higher education promises far-reaching benefits, especially to students of color, who often face daunting challenges in completing a post-secondary education. Guided by our mission to encourage Minnesota’s youth of color to pursue post-secondary education, the Page Education Foundation promotes their academic achievement, personal responsibility and untapped potential to become vital contributors to their communities. We accomplish this by granting financial assistance to post-secondary students. In return, these students actively foster positive attitudes toward literacy and learning among younger, school-age children of color through mentoring relationships.

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are honored to share with you the immense pride and optimism we feel presenting this year’s annual report. It has truly been a privilege over the years to watch these young men and women develop into the leaders of tomorrow through their passion and determination today. If these students are our future, then the future is bright. The power hidden in the story of each Page Scholar is not only the unforeseen change these students will effect on the world, but the immeasurable impact our Scholars have on the lives of the children they mentor. Our students embody hope for a new generation by both investing in education and building up their communities for the future.

The stories presented in this Annual Report serve as a testament to the inspired talent and selfless integrity in the youth of today. Each story is unique and every opportunity described provides reason for hope and encouragement. Yet taken together, there lies within the stories of all of our Page Scholars the broader narrative of a community that values education and is committed to the potential of all students.

Thank you for your continued support of the Page Education Foundation. It is with the utmost sincerity that I express how indispensable your generosity is in sustaining the investment in our community. By your kindness and through the achievements of our many Scholars, we can be confident in our hope for a brighter future.

Sincerely,

Diane Sims Page
Founder
Alan Page spent fifteen years in the NFL, becoming the first defensive player in the league’s history to receive an MVP award. While playing football, he became a full-time law student, earning his Juris Doctor in 1978. Alan’s deep and abiding belief in the importance of education did not stop with his own success.

Recognizing a need for our education system to reach more young people of color, he used his 1988 induction into the NFL Hall of Fame to launch the Page Education Foundation. From its inception, the Foundation has offered money and encouragement to students of color facing incredible barriers to attaining their educational dreams.

According to Page, “In 1988 when I was going to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, my wife, Diane, and I decided this was the time for us to take some action to do what we could to try to create hope in young people. To let them know that their futures could be better than the present. We came up with the idea of starting the Page Education Foundation, with the goal of encouraging, assisting and motivating young men and women of color to pursue education beyond high school. We thought we could create a Foundation that would pull people along and give them hope. We would do that in two ways: 1) by providing financial assistance; and 2) the second and more important way is that we require our grant recipients, our Page Scholars, to go into the community where they come from or the community where they are going to school to work with young children – kindergarten through eighth grade specifically in the area of education.

“The fact is that I see a lot of young people who engage in anti-social behavior. Some of those young people simply have no moral compass. But for many of them, indeed I suspect the majority, there is a lack of hope. And so, to the extent that the Page Education Foundation and Page Scholars create hope, we make the world a better place not only for ourselves but also for all of those around us.”
Minnesota is approaching a workforce crisis. While the achievement gap for students of color is a national problem, the gap is particularly glaring in Minnesota. African American, Hispanic and Native American students are not performing at the same levels as white and Asian students. The impact of this achievement gap has long and serious consequences. Dropout rates for students of color in Minnesota are alarming. According to the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, over the last five years, students of color and American Indian students were two to five times more likely to drop out of school as their white peers. In a new report (June 2010) from Georgetown University’s Center for Education and the Workforce, by 2018, Minnesota’s demand for workers with education beyond high school will be the second largest in the country. With a generation of well-educated Baby Boomers retiring, there is a critical need to invest in post-secondary education opportunities for students of color.

At the same time, state funding for higher education has been slashed in the face of a budget crisis here in Minnesota. In response, tuition has skyrocketed at both public and private colleges and universities. Supporting the financial demands of a post-secondary education for students of color in Minnesota is now more important than ever.

In response to this challenge to educate young people of color, we created a dynamic solution that combines:

Financial support through scholarships for post-secondary education
Leadership, internship and job development opportunities with top Minnesota companies
Mentoring relationships that provide real-life career related information
Community service aimed at helping younger children of color succeed in school

We help open the door to college and work to make higher education an attainable and realistic goal for anyone regardless of economic, ethnic or racial status.
program descriptions

Page Grants

The Page Education Foundation awards annual, renewable grants to Minnesota students of color who attend colleges, universities and technical schools throughout Minnesota. Students who accept Foundation grants must make a commitment to return to their communities where they perform clearly defined service projects with younger children of color. Foundation awards consist of annual grants of $1,000 to $2,500. The selection process highlights an applicant's attitude toward education, willingness to provide service to children, and financial need. Recipients reapply each year they attend post-secondary school.

Service-to-Children

The Service-to-Children Program requires each Page Scholar to volunteer at least 50 hours during the academic year mentoring kindergarten-8th grade children of color. With a focus on literacy and tutoring, Page Scholars encourage K-8 grade children of color to view education as a positive and exciting goal. These relationships offer powerful motivation to impressionable youngsters who still look to older students for guidance. Children mentored by Page Scholars benefit from real life role models willing to show them how to make good choices and follow their dreams of becoming the person they choose to be.

Page Connections

Page Connections goal is to support Page Scholars as they work to successfully complete their education and community service. Page Connections provides Page Scholars the opportunity to access support services on campus, internships/career opportunities, group service projects and ways to connect with other Page Scholars.
Since 1988, the Page Education Foundation has supported 4,600 students who in turn have given more than 300,000 hours of mentoring and tutoring younger children.

Below are some numbers that help describe the 2009/2010 Page Scholars:

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
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<td>COMMUNITY &amp; TECHNICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS</td>
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<td>4-YEAR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS</td>
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<td>COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES PAGE SCHOLARS ARE ATTENDING</td>
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<td>FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FOR PAGE GRANTS IN 2009/2010</td>
<td>$810,000</td>
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Jessica Schultz has always been a motivated and passionate person, but from an early age she learned the importance of having mentors. Jessica says, “While I was growing up, I always had great role models to look up to, whether it was teachers, advisors, my grandparents, and even my parents. There was always someone there to help encourage me. I feel that every child needs someone like that to encourage them and help them achieve success.” This is why being a Page Scholar has meant so much to Jessica. The Foundation provides her the opportunity to make a difference in many children’s lives, by helping students with their studies and encouraging them to succeed in school. Jessica explains, “it is important to give advice and share our experiences and the lessons we have learned along the way. It has also allowed me to grow as a person and strengthen my leadership and communication skills for the future.”

The future is something Jessica is focused on, particularly pursuing her passion for education. An Aquatic Biology major at Bemidji State University, Jessica plans to continue to give back to her community and be a role model to children after college. She has gained so much being a mentor, saying, “I love seeing the smiles of the kids when I walk in the room and the look on their faces when something has clicked. Those moments to me are the most rewarding.” Her career goals are to become a researcher working for a private sector or a governmental organization studying aquatic ecosystems. As a part of her future, she seeks to be involved in educational outreach teaching young people about pollution and the environment. Valuing her experience, Jessica is excited to share her knowledge.
The Page Education Foundation really gave me a chance and now I am in a position to give back.

Khai Le – Former Page Scholar

Khai Le has been working hard for the Page Education Foundation. As a member of the Advisory Board, he is co-chairing an alumni outreach campaign, and he provides on-going website support through his company, Iglobalist. Khai, a former Page Scholar is thrilled to have the opportunity to give back to an organization that supported his education. “The Page Education Foundation really gave me a chance and now I am in a position to give back. I believe education is the cornerstone in every community; everyone should have the opportunity to access an education.”

Khai Le has always loved learning. Born in Vietnam, Khai started to demonstrate a real gift for math in 3rd grade, competing in local math competitions. During the turbulent times of the Vietnam war, Khai had to leave his school and his formal education. For two years, he taught himself. “I borrowed books and did whatever I could to keep learning.” It took him a couple of years, but he caught up to his peers and graduated at 17. Then Khai and his family moved to Minnesota and he entered high school to focus on his English. He graduated from Rosemount High School and began his studies at the University of Minnesota in 1996 and became a Page Scholar.

The values of Page Education Foundation resonated immediately with Khai. Through his service-to-children project, he became a math mentor to younger children. He began to envision his own ways of giving back to a community that supported him. “When the opportunity arose to get involved, I jumped at it,” says Khai. “My long-term goals are to improve the lives of those in my community. I am so grateful for the support I received; it is time to start giving back.” He has even created a math related website for students, parents and teachers to access, www.myfreeeducation.org.
Bill Hittler, an attorney at Nilan Johnson Lewis, understands the importance of giving back to his community and supporting youth of color. That is why he chose to be a Page Scholar mentor. He says, “I am honored to be able to work with energetic, intelligent and motivated college students.” Bill believes giving advice and sharing ideas on college and vocation provides a tangible benefit to students. Striving to open doors to potential careers, Bill encourages the exploration of post-graduate opportunities, and he seeks to give a positive reinforcement to his mentees. Likewise, his mentees have also had an impact on him. He has learned much about the obstacles they have overcome to get to college and their ambitious career plans. According to Bill, “Being a mentor has enriched my life and made me appreciate the value of an education.” Bill continues to be a positive influence on youth and urges others to do the same saying, “Serving as a mentor is a responsibility we all should embrace and support.”

One of the students that Bill mentors is Mai Thao, an economics major at the College of St. Benedict graduated in May 2011. Mai also understands the importance of having a mentor. She knows that the knowledge being passed down, the guidance, and networking that she has received has been invaluable. Being a Page Scholar, Mai herself is a mentor for young children. She says, “This has meant a lot to me. It is a way to give back to my community.” The experience of becoming a Page Scholar, and having a mentor, has made Mai feel empowered to succeed. She has strengthened her leadership skills, has a better understanding of her career goals, and is reminded of where she came from. Mai says, “This experience has helped me be all that I can be.”
With immense gratitude we honor our donors and supporters for providing the financial foundation to achieve our mission.

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Robbins Umeda LLP
Rocco Altobell
Robert Rosenbaum and Maggie Gilbert
Room and Board
Rush River Brewery
Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra
Saint Paul Hotel
Saint Paul Saints
Lance and DeGallayn Sanders
Seven The Steakhouse
Tom and Patti Shadick
Shoporama
Shin Rejuvenation Clinic
Steve and Diane Solmonson
Southpoint Community Acupuncture
Spill the Wine
Spoonriver
Spot Spa Boutique
Stabybridge Suites
Robert and Stephanie Stuart
Luchelle Stevens
StyleLife
Summit Brewing Company
Sweeney Todd’s Salon

Tastefully Simple, Inc.
The Park Tavern
The Splendid Table @ American Public Media
The Wellness Center
The Winery
Thomasina’s Cashew Brittle
Hans Thorkelson and Ann Seguin
Tiffany’s
Lois Trusty
Toro Foundation
Joe Treter
Mara Troth
Twin Cities Green
Upper Deck Company
Uptown Theatre
Vandallia Street Press
Jonathan and Susan Vaughan-Fier
Wagners
Walker Art Center
Warner’s Stellan
Waterpark of America
Ryan and Angela Wentz
Whole Foods
Workman Publishing Co., Inc.
Mary Wozniak
Youngsteads
Yum!

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I truly enjoyed doing this work not only because of my belief in being a good role model and mentoring young people, but also because I believe I am an agent of change.

- Mysee Chang, Page Scholar
From all of us at Page Education Foundation

THANK YOU!!!