

Scholars seek a future of leadership

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It's no secret that the political leaders of the United States are an overwhelmingly homogeneous bunch — the vast majority of Congress is, and has been, since the founding of this country, white, male and Christian. As America's racial and religious make-up changes, however, shouldn't the demographics of America's leadership change as well?

Deborah Bial, who founded the [Posse Foundation](#) in 1989, had just this thought. If more diversity were introduced into institutions of higher learning now, more diversity will exist in top-level decision-making positions in the future — not only in politics, but also in business, education and other fields.

The Posse Foundation identifies and assists high-performing, multicultural, urban, mostly public school teens in going to college. It is neither a minority nor need-based scholarship, however. Students are nominated by their schools based on exemplary academics and demonstration of leadership abilities, and if chosen by the Posse Foundation, they receive full-tuition scholarships to one of Posse's partner universities.

What makes the Posse Foundation unique is that it does not simply send its scholars to college alone with a full ride and no support network. Instead, the foundation puts together groups of 10 to 12 students — “posses” — and sends them to school together, where they have a faculty mentor and an eight-month series of workshops during their first year.

Tulane University has collaborated with the Posse Foundation since 2009, receiving a Posse from Los Angeles annually. Since 2012, Tulane also has accepted a New Orleans Posse each year.

“It takes money, resources and dedication to make [Posse] work, but over the last six years Tulane and Posse have proven that underserved kids from urban communities can survive and thrive in a competitive university environment,” said Earl Retif, Tulane University vice president of enrollment management and registrar.

Take a look at the infographic below to see the Posse program at Tulane by the numbers.

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In That Number Posse Foundation



UNDERSERVED KIDS FROM URBAN COMMUNITIES THRIVE

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3.101

The average overall cumulative GPA of a Posse scholar who has attended Tulane.



245

The number of years' worth of Tulane tuition that's been awarded to Posse scholars from fall 2009 through spring 2015. This amount equals over \$10.25 million.



97%

The retention rate of Tulane University's Posse scholars after 2 years.

90.4%

Percentage of Posse scholars who are not white, foreign students or students with dual-citizenship.



20

The number of Posse students who have graduated from Tulane (L.A. Posse 2009, 2010).

113

Number of Posse scholars enrolled at Tulane since 2009 (61 female, 52 male).



11

Number of Posse Tulane has hosted since 2009, including both Los Angeles and New Orleans Posse.



9

Number of cities Posse is active in: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York and Washington, D.C. A 10th program in the Bay Area of California will open this year.