

## **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. Posses 2009, 2010).

# 113

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



# 11

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



# 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.