



Dear Mayor Hales and Commissioners Novick, Fish, Fritz, and Saltzman,

On behalf of the City Club of Portland, I am pleased to present to you today about Civic Scholars, City Club's youth civic engagement program. Civic Scholars seeks to demystify leadership, advocacy, and government for youth from underserved schools.

To do this, we expose students, many for the first time, to a formal business environment. We also expose students to community leaders and the advocacy process. After a Q&A with Portland Police Chief Larry O'Dea, a young woman from East Portland told me "I had been prepared to ask him all these tough questions about police brutality in my community, but then I met him, and he seemed like a nice guy, and I froze". The ability to speak one's mind in front of intimidating leaders takes practice. By bringing students to multiple events per year, this program provides the practice necessary to build confidence, and have one's voice heard.

This advocacy practice also takes the form of questions at the microphone at Friday Forum, where I have seen teenagers bravely ask questions about gun control, legislation protecting undocumented immigrants, affordable housing, and the lack of affordable arts opportunities in Portland. These questions again build confidence. If a student can look the Governor in the eye and ask a question in front of 300 people and the whole state on OPB Radio, I think they'll be quite competent lobbying their school board for money for new planners, or impressing their next employer in a job interview.

The Civic Scholars program builds skills for these youth, but it has just as profound an impact on the adults around them. Scores of people have approached me at these events and sent me emails to tell me how inspired they were by a student's question. I set out to inspire youth, yet half of the emails I get are from inspired adults. I believe this is because for all the despair that can go around about "kids today" and the future, not many people are actually asking young people what they care about, or giving them a chance to voice their passions, concerns, and ideas. This program has shown that our future is in innovative, smart, and compassionate hands. I am thrilled to expose these youth to the adult world of community engagement and civic service. But I am also honored to expose the world to these impressive young people.

On that note, I now introduce Jade Bradford, a senior at Parkrose High School, and a Civic Scholar. Thank you for your time.

If you have any further questions or would like to be involved, please email me at amanda@pdxcityclub.org

Sincerely,
Amanda Shore
Civic Scholars Coordinator
AmeriCorps VISTA
City Club of Portland



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More About Civic Scholars



Parkrose High School students with Mayor Hales

Civic Scholars began its pilot year in January, 2015. It is currently offered at the following high schools: Jefferson, Roosevelt, Madison, Parkrose, and David Douglas. The program brings 10-20 youth from each of these schools to three City Club Friday Forums a year. In under three months, Civic Scholars has organized Q&As with Mayor Charlie Hales, Governor Kate Brown, House Congressman Earl Blumenauer, Portland Police Chief Larry O’Dea, President of Northwest Health Foundation Nichole Maher, Executive Director of SMART Chris Otis, and other community leaders.

Why Do We Need Civic Scholars?

Civic Scholars seeks to disrupt barriers to youth educational achievement, particularly barriers related to 1) poverty, and 2) the educational achievement of a youth’s caregivers. These barriers disproportionately affect people of color, and affect overall too many children in Multnomah County. In Multnomah County, 1-in-8 White children, and “1-in-3 children of color,” live in poverty¹. A



White person is “twice more likely to have a university degree” than a person of color². 34% of Native American youth who begin as freshman in high school, graduate with a degree from Portland Public High Schools in their senior year.

¹ Curry-Stevens, A., Cross-Hemmer, A., & Coalition of Communities of Color (2010). Communities of Color in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile. Portland, OR: Portland State University., 47

² Ibid., 31



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Furthermore “in Multnomah County, according to the 2000 census, 25 percent of the Native population earns less than \$10,000 per year, and 25 percent earns less than \$24,000 per year. This means that fully half of the Native population lives in deep poverty”³.

In Year One of Civic Scholars, the program was able to reach these vulnerable populations, and plans to expand its reach in Year Two by deepening the existing program, and expanding to include an alternative school run by the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA). Civic Scholars targets low-income, underperforming schools, in order to reach the necessary populations to disrupt cycles of poverty.

Goals for Civic Scholars in 2015-2016:

1. Expand to include NAYA’s Alternative School
2. Create a clothing closet for students to dress professionally when they attend Friday Forums, regardless of income.
3. Provide a Youth-Adult Partnership Training from Multnomah Youth Commission for volunteers who assist with Civic Scholars, staff, and relevant members of City Club boards
4. Recruit more volunteers
5. Hold more discussion sessions, creating opportunities to get involved outside of Friday Forum
6. Create and integrate service learning curriculum
7. Provide informational interviews between students and influential community members



Jefferson High School students with ED of SMART, Chris Otis

³ www.nayapdx.org/about Accessed on: 3/10/2015

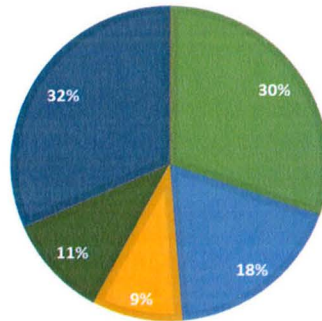


Who is Civic Scholars Reaching?

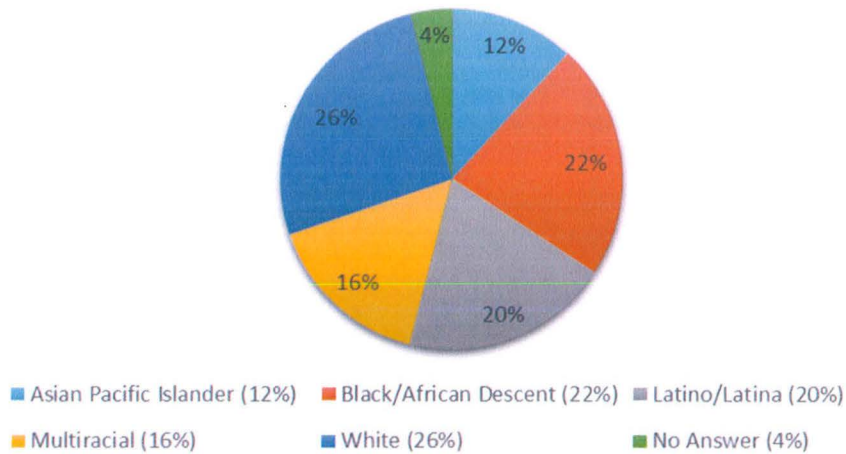
Below are graphs of demographic data from students who participated in the first year of Civic Scholars. This data was self-reported by students on the application to participate in Civic Scholars.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF YEAR 1 CIVIC SCHOLARS' CAREGIVERS

- Neither caregiver went to college (30%)
- One or more caregiver had some college but no degree (18%)
- One or more caregiver had an Associates degree (9%)
- Unsure (11%)
- One or more caregiver had a Bachelors degree or higher (32%)

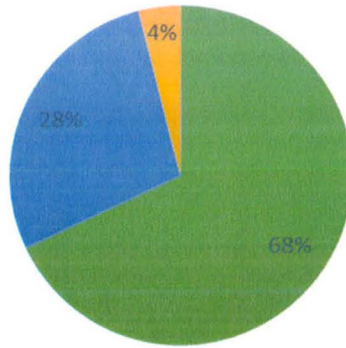


Civic Scholars Year 1 Demographics: Race



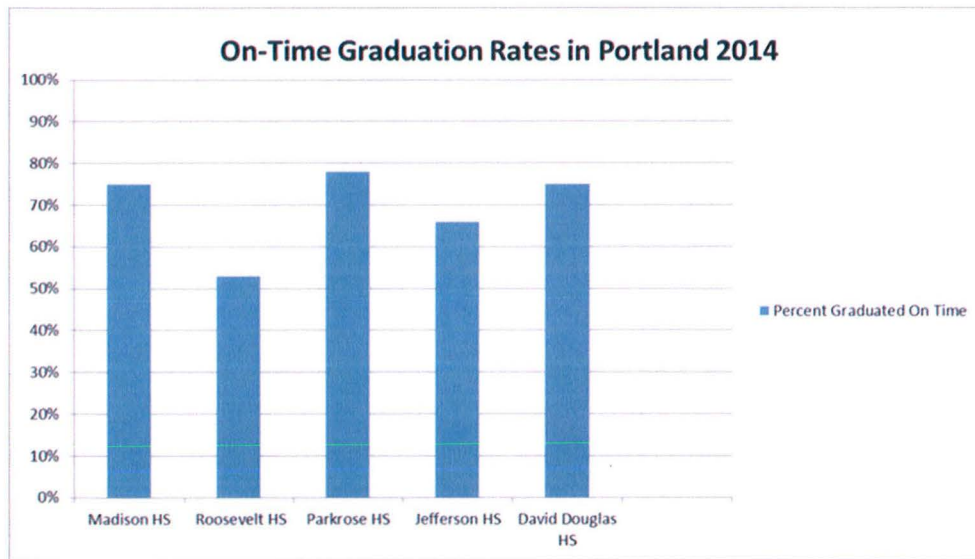


Civic Scholars Year 1 Demographics: Poverty



- Receive free or reduced price lunch (68%)
- Do not receive free or reduced price lunch (28%)
- Reported "I'm not sure" (4%)

Below is a graph of on-time graduation rates at the schools Civic Scholars operates at in its pilot year



⁴ schools.oregonlive.com/

Parsons, Susan

Subject: FW: Communications: Civic Scholars at City Club of Portland

From: Amanda Shore [<mailto:Amanda@pdxcityclub.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 11:55 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Cc: Parsons, Susan
Subject: [Approved Sender] RE: Communications: Civic Scholars at City Club of Portland

Hi Karla,

Did you receive my follow up email, asking to instead present on April 15th? Sorry for the confusion.

Jade Bradford is the name of the student. "Civic Scholars at City Club of Portland" is perfect.

Best,
Amanda Shore • Civic Scholars Coordinator

City Club of Portland
503-228-7231 x702 • 901 SW Washington St. Portland, OR 97205
www.pdxcityclub.org

From: Moore-Love, Karla [<mailto:Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 3:38 PM
To: Amanda Shore
Cc: Parsons, Susan
Subject: RE: Communications: Civic Scholars at City Club of Portland

Hello Amanda,

Civic Scholars sounds like a wonderful opportunity for the students.

Our public Communications portion of the agenda allows the first five people who have signed up in advance three minutes to speak on the topic of their choosing. I have one spot left on March 18th but, Mayor Hales will be absent. After that our next available dates are April 15, April 22 and April 29. If the student will be taking their own spot, I will need their name and topic.

Please let me know if any of these dates will work for you.

Regards,
Karla
Karla Moore-Love | Council Clerk
City of Portland | Office of the City Auditor

From: Amanda Shore [<mailto:Amanda@pdxcityclub.org>]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 2:32 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla

Cc: Parsons, Susan

Subject: Communications: Civic Scholars at City Club of Portland

Hello Karla and Susan,

Dana Haynes, the Mayor's Communications Director, encouraged me to contact the two of you about presenting for "Communications" in March. I am Amanda Shore, I coordinate a program called Civic Scholars at City Club of Portland. Civic Scholars is a high school civic engagement program which aims to bring civics education out of the classroom and into the community, and to inspire students to see themselves as agents of change. The program recently launched at Mayor Hales's State of the City address at a City Club Friday Forum on January 30th, where Parkrose High School students watched his speech from the front row, networked with interesting members of the community, and participated in a private Q&A with the Mayor. The following week, students from Roosevelt High School had a Q&A with Sam Adams, and listened to a speech about the Oregon economy. This program is in its pilot year, and will continue to bring students to Friday Forums and offer them private Q&As with prominent leaders and experts through the end of the school year. It is currently bringing delegations of students from 5 high schools: Parkrose, David Douglas, Madison, Jefferson, and Roosevelt.

I would love to present on Civic Scholars at "Communications" in March, and to bring an impressive Civic Scholar from Parkrose High School with me to talk about her experience with the program.

Could you tell me what the next steps are if I am interesting in presenting at "Communications" in early March?

Thank you,

Amanda Shore • Civic Scholars Coordinator

City Club of Portland

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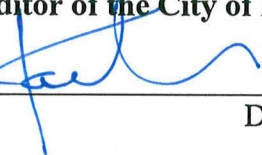
Request of Amanda Shore and Jade Bradford to address Council regarding Civic Scholars at City Club of Portland (Communication)

APR 15 2015

PLACED ON FILE

Filed APR 10 2015

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		