



STORYTELLER

NEWSLETTER FALL 2011



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FUTURES[®] FOR CHILDREN

Where Native Youth Become Tomorrow's Leaders!



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

My wife, Elaine, our mentored student, Cody Yazzie, and I enjoy sitting at our dining room table and watching the many birds that visit the bird feeder. Cody stayed with us for part of the summer, and we were all fascinated as we watched the growing strength of the young birds through the summer months. By the time they appear at the feeder, they are already quite competent in flight, and their dependence on their supportive parents diminishes quickly.

As schools open throughout the country, I cannot help but draw a comparison to the many Futures students of all ages who are also testing their wings and taking flight into a vast variety of educational experiences. Cody is a perfect example. In September, he will begin his own challenging educational adventure at Stanford University. Elaine and I take our place beside his proud parents, Peterson and Selena, in providing some of the “wind beneath his wings.” He is also supported by a Gates Millennium Scholarship that he earned all on his own.

Cuauhtemoc Xicotencatl, another Futures student, is ready to start the 4th grade. He is just testing his wings in grade school and is supported by Dina DeVore and Donald and LaVonne Blackburn. He wrote to thank Futures for his school supplies (which are delivered to our Backpack Students within the Friendship Program) and stated with firm conviction, “I am doing fine and I am ready to go back to school.” Cuauhtemoc is looking ahead with clear eyes!

Leading the way through the skies of educational achievement are other students like Eveli Abeyta, another Gates scholar. Eveli was a Futures Youth Leadership Program student and project coach as well as a mentored student. Her parents, Juanita and Ray, her mentor, Wendy Chase, and friends Marx and Joan Sterne, have watched Eveli soar for years. Her wings are strong and have been tested through many storms. She will begin post graduate work after graduating magna cum laude this spring from Georgetown with two majors and “a strong minor.”

Samantha Yazzie (no relation to Cody), another 4th grader, wrote Futures from Chinle, Arizona to thank us for supporting her in grade school. She wanted to know “why we help hundreds of kids?” This may be a question she has also asked her mentors, Eugen and Doris Reinartz. It is a wonderful question, and the answer is probably different for each of us in the Futures circle.

The motivations for each of us involved in Futures for Children may be different, but the courage of our students as they spread their wings and fly into a new educational experience brings excitement to all of us. We know they will face both stormy flights and flights filled with sunshine. The spirit that shines in their faces and through their words is wind beneath our wings! Best wishes to all our Futures scholars!

Jim West
President/CEO

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OUR NEW HOLIDAY ORNAMENT HAS ARRIVED

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

APRIL 1-3, 2011 IN ALBUQUERQUE, NM

Children in grades 3-5 attended the elementary school Youth Leadership Summit, where they participated in a variety of activities to develop their leadership skills, meet new people, and explore interesting topics.



A student practices his public speaking skills.



Students cooperate in a team building exercise.

DAY 1

- **Opening Banquet:** Students practiced public speaking skills during their group presentations. Many students made presentations about community service activities that they completed with their Youth Leadership group. Students were placed in their Summit teams, which consisted of children from different communities. They ate dinner together and did an activity to help them communicate and cooperate with their new team members.

DAY 2

- **Science Workshops:** Students attended the workshops *Go with the Flow: What is Bernoulli's Principle?* and *Discover the Wonders of Nature* which were conducted by the Albuquerque museum Explora.

- **Writing Workshops:** Volunteers from the Poets in Schools program of New Mexico CultureNet conducted workshops on poetry and aspects of the writing process. Students listened to instruction, created their own poetry, and read their compositions to their teammates.

- **Team Building Workshop:** Students were taken to the beautiful outdoor location of Sandia Lakes to participate in activities that encouraged them to cooperate as a team. Volunteers from the Emergence and TAP Program introduced students to pueblo culture and facilitated games and activities.

- **Environmental Workshop:** Futures for Children staff conducted a workshop based on the principles of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics.

- **Team Presentation Preparation:** Each Summit team was required to develop a group presentation.

- **Evening Activities:** The students were able to attend an acting workshop or an opera workshop, watch a movie, or go iceskating.

DAY 3

- **Team Presentation Preparation:** Students were again given the opportunity to prepare for their group presentation. The group presentation project encouraged the students to work together, to organize their thoughts about their experience at the Youth Leadership Summit, and to share their work with the staff, volunteers, students, and guests who would attend the closing event.

- **Final Presentations:** The students made excellent presentations that showcased their cooperative, organizational, creative, and leadership skills.

Many Thanks to the great volunteers at Wells Fargo – Native Peoples Group. The Marathon Dinner and Taco Lunch were a fantastic success due to your efforts, hard work, and great Heart!



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

APRIL 14-17, 2011 IN ABIQUIU, NM

Children in grades 6-8 attended the middle school Youth Leadership Summit. Students, staff, and volunteers traveled to Ghost Ranch Education and Retreat Center in Abiquiu, NM. In the same way that students practice their leadership skills at Summits, volunteer Project Coaches also hone their abilities to work with groups of students within the Youth Leadership Program.

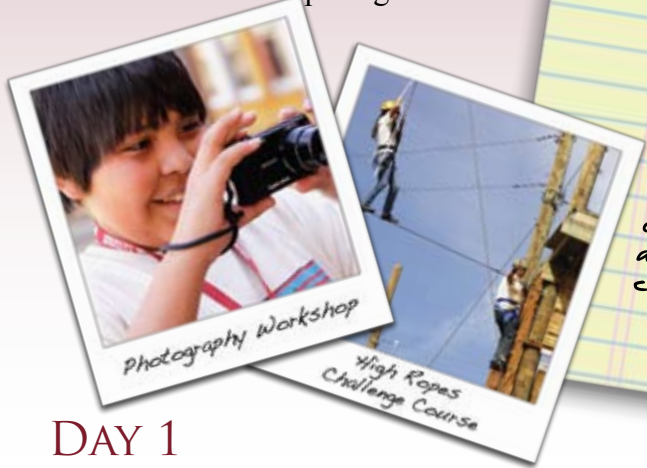


Dear Futures for Children Staff,

Thank you so much for providing such an amazing weekend for our students. Each of our students (and us included!) had a great time at the weekend retreat. All our students have talked about since we returned was how much they enjoyed the trip and that they want to go back! We think it was excellent that our students got to interact and forge friendships with other student leaders. The weekend and all the workshops gave our students the opportunity to explore new ideas that will help them in school and in the future.

We started our dormitory leadership program not too long ago, and many of our students were weary of involvement. However since our retreat, we have seen a change in our students and their interest in leadership. We figured that this trip would be a pretty special experience for some of our students but we could not have guessed the profound impact the weekend would have on our students. Our students are now more willing to take on leadership roles and are more vocal in dormitory activities. In fact, our other dormitory staff said they have noticed a change in the behavior and attitude of our kids. Overall, we just wanted to thank you for creating such a special weekend for our students!

— Volunteer Project Coaches



DAY 1

- **Opening Dinner:** Students were welcomed to the Ghost Ranch and played icebreaker games to become acquainted with other participants. Youth Leadership groups did introductory presentations. One group of students introduced themselves and shared the symbolism colors of their traditional Hopi clothing.

DAY 2

- **Low Ropes Challenge Course:** Students participated in adventure-based learning activities on a low ropes course to help them build team trust, cooperation, and problem-solving skills. Activities included helping one another over a wooden beam and balancing on seesaw structure.
- **Paleontology Museum Visit:** Students received a guided educational tour. The Ghost Ranch area is known for its fossils and fossil quarry.
- **Environmental Workshop:** A volunteer conducted two activities that examined water conservation and erosion.
- **Team Development Workshop:** Project Coaches lead students in team building activities.
- **Evening Activities:** Students were able either to participate in an opera or art workshop. The opera workshop allowed students to sing as a group, and the art workshop introduced students to mandalas, or patterned designs sometimes created for meditative purposes in Hindu and Buddhist traditions.

DAY 3

- **High Ropes Challenge Course:** Students climbed the high ropes course to challenge themselves, encourage others, and build self-confidence.
- **Leadership Workshop:** Guided by a volunteer workshop facilitator, the students were asked to consider the qualities of a leader, the difficulties that leaders might face, and the ways in which they could be leaders. Students made collages to represent their futures.
- **Photography Workshop:** Harvey Stearn conducted a workshop on the basic principles of photography and optics, digital photography, operation of a digital camera, and composition. Students were then given the opportunity to take pictures outside.
- **Team Presentation Preparation:** Students gathered together in their teams to reflect on their Youth Leadership Summit experiences. They created banners to illustrate the topics they would discuss during their presentation.

DAY 4

- **Final Presentations:** Student teams made their presentations about their Youth Leadership Summit experiences. One group performed a song, and other groups spoke about the Summit activities. These presentations allowed students to practice speaking in front of an audience, and the students helped inform our guest supporters about the Youth Leadership Program.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

JUNE 6-10, 2011 IN DURANGO, CO

High school students were given the opportunity to stay at Fort Lewis College during the Summit in Durango. Because each Summit's activities are tailored to the students' age groups, these high schoolers were introduced to the college campus life and encouraged to pursue a post-secondary degree.

DAY 1

- **Ice Cream Social:** After students and volunteers arrived on campus, they were welcomed with an ice cream social.
- **Campus Tour:** A staff member from Fort Lewis College's staff gave a tour of the campus. Fort Lewis College was an ideal location because it is known for its wonderful opportunities for American Indian students.
- **Opening Banquet:** Students made their Youth Leadership group presentations and met with the other members of their Summit team.

DAY 2

- **Low Ropes Challenge Course:** Students practiced leadership and cooperative skills.
- **Team Development:** Futures for Children staff and volunteers led students in team development activities.
- **Photography Workshop:** Students were introduced to the art of photography by Harvey Stearn. They were able to practice taking digital photos and share photos in the evening.
- **High Ropes Challenge Course:** Students were given the opportunity to practice "challenge by choice" on the high ropes course.
- **Evening Activities:** The photos that students took during the photography workshop were showcased in a slideshow. Students were then able to play board games or outdoor sports.

DAY 3

- **Academic Workshops:** Students listened to presentations from the Fort Lewis College environmental studies department and from the school of business.
- **Native Professional Panel:** Students listened to various Native professionals who spoke about their careers and educations. Students had an opportunity to learn more during a Q & A session.
- **Talent Night:** Students were encouraged to showcase a talent for the Summit participants.

DAY 4

- **Service Learning:** The Youth Leadership Program gives students tools that they can use to work together to serve their communities. During this Summit, students were introduced to two service organizations, Manna Soup Kitchen and La Plata Humane Society, for which they did volunteer work. Students volunteering for the soup kitchen prepared lunch for Durango community members and they also did work in a garden which would be used to help feed those in need. Students volunteering for the humane society beautified an area which is used to walk animals.
- **Open Mic Night:** Students had the opportunity to perform "off the cuff" during this evening workshop.
- **Team Presentation Preparation:** Students began brainstorming and preparing for their team presentations during workshop.

DAY 5

- **Final Presentations:** Students made their final presentations, and awards were presented to the team who won the Summit Challenge.
- **Closing Circle:** Students and volunteers make final reflections on their Youth Leadership Experience.



NATIVE ECHOES E-NEWSLETTER

Futures for Children is happy to bring you our e-newsletter, *Native Echoes*! Go to futuresforchildren.org, click the contact button, and enter your e-mail address to receive news, information about American Indian culture, stories, and upcoming events.



COLLEGE HORIZONS 2011



COLLEGE HORIZONS?

College Horizons is a non-profit organization that supports the higher education of Native American students by providing pre-college summer programs open to American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian high school students from across the nation. The mission of College Horizons Inc. is to encourage and facilitate the higher education of Native American young people.

BUT WHAT DO THEY DO?

College Horizons is a pre-college program for Native American high school students open to current sophomores and juniors. Each summer students work with expert college counselors teamed up with college admissions officers in a five-day “crash course.” The individualized program helps students:

- Select suitable colleges to research and apply to
- Complete winning applications, resumes, and write memorable essays
- Become a test-prep whiz by learning test-taking strategies (on ACT & SAT)
- Navigate the financial aid/scholarship jungle and complete a preliminary FAFSA
- Attend a College Fair, admissions informational sessions, and have direct one-on-one time with at least 35 college/university representatives
- Learn what turns an applicant into an admitted student!



DOES IT WORK?

- Every year, 98% of their alumni go directly to college!
- Approximately 85% of their alumni graduate college within five years!
- Over 2,000 students have attended College Horizons, approximately 50 Tribal Nations are represented from over 20 states, 40% are first generation college students, 42% receive need-based financial aid, 70% are female and 30% are male.

HOW IS FUTURES INVOLVED WITH COLLEGE HORIZONS?

Every year Futures sponsors Mentorship and Youth Leadership students to attend the College Horizon Program. In the summer of 2011, FFC sponsored eleven students. They attended the 5 day session at either Colorado State University or the University of Rochester in New York. The cost this year was approximately \$550 a student. The number of students we send depends on you...if this is a program you'd like to sponsor, let us know!

CAMERI TAYLOR, CHINLE, AZ, ONE OF THIS YEAR'S FFC PARTICIPATES:

“The impact the program had on me was that I gained a new perspective on college and how to do the application process. The most important thing I learned was that there is a lot of help you can get all around you and programs you can join to get scholarships. I mostly enjoyed going to the college presentations and seeing the representatives and at the same time getting to know them. The small group sessions were helpful by getting to know other people from other parts of America.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT OF FUTURES FOR CHILDREN.

Donations received May 2011 through August 2011

Our newest DreamMakers are Lawrence and Sharon Beeman of the Futures for Children DreamMaker Legacy Circle. We invite you to join the DreamMaker Legacy Circle by making a planned gift to Futures for Children – *a gift that lasts a lifetime.*

When remembering Futures for Children in your will, please use the following language: Futures for Children, (Federal Tax ID #85-0254951), a nonprofit organization, organized and existing under the laws of New Mexico with its principal office at 9600 Tennyson Street NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122.

If you need more information, please contact Sandy Massey, Development and Communications Specialist, by calling 505-821-2828 x 129. Thank you very much.

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FUTURES[®] FOR CHILDREN

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FuturesforChildren.org
800.545.6843

Our Mission:

Futures for Children enhances the quality of the educational experience for American Indian students through mentoring and leadership development.

Our Vision:

Futures for Children seeks a world in which social and economic justice includes American Indian people. We partner with supporters to encourage American Indian students to develop into young leaders who find their voice and take action while taking pride in their cultural identities.

Will You Be My Mentor?



Dale

Dale loves to ride his bike, draw, and create artwork. He likes to be positive and outgoing.

Find us on Facebook to stay up-to-date with Futures for Children,
and check out our YouTube channel, *FuturesFC!*



*To mentor an American Indian child, please contact Janelle Sandoval at 800.545.6843 ext. 121
or SandovalJ@futuresforchildren.org*

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