

Ninde Scholars Program

Fall 2007 Newsletter

Bo Arbogast, Director
Will Torres, Assistant Director

The Ninde Scholars Program: Improving College Access for Oberlin's Young People



"This is the first group of Ninde Scholars to gain the full benefit of the program."

2007: Milestones and Changes

The year 2007 marked some major milestones for the Ninde Scholars Program.

Both Nan and Dick Ninde passed away this past school year. Nan died in September of 2006 and Dick in June of 2007. Dick was very pleased to have been able to attend the graduation ceremony for the Ninde Scholars at Kendal the month before. He met and talked with the scholars, and saw the effects of his and Nan's generosity.

At that same ceremony we bid farewell to Anne Trubek as director of the program. Anne's work in getting this program off the ground was immeasurable. Her vision and dedication played an enormous part in the successful launch and first years of the program.

Bo Arbogast is now the director of the program. Anne had originally hired Bo to work on SAT preparation for the Ninde Scholars. Bo spent 6 years at ETS, the company that produces the SAT. Before working at ETS, Bo also worked in a number of educational settings including public high schools, refugee education, and migrant health. He really enjoyed working with Ninde scholars in the past few years and looks forward to continuing the success of the program.

Bo is especially glad to have Will Torres as assistant director. "Will and the tutors are the real backbone of this program" says Bo. "Will and the tutors see the students day after day – helping them to find their strengths, explore opportunities and meet challenges."

Second Group of Ninde Scholars on to a bright future!

The second group of Ninde Scholars are enrolled in college! Keturah Minley will be attending Baldwin-Wallace College. Brittany Daughtery will be at Kent State University. Brittnei Sherrod will attend Oberlin College, the first Ninde Scholar to do so, and is also going to be a Bonner Scholar. Brianna Stevenson will attend Lorain County Community College. Hooray girls!

This group is the first to gain the full

benefit of the program – spending two years with their tutors from Oberlin College, working on college essays, taking test prep classes, and many college-oriented activities.

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Dick Ninde sits surrounded by the Ninde Scholars Class of 2007. From left are Brittnei Sherrod, Brianna Stevenson, Brittney Daugherty, and Ketturah Minley. In the top center is Will Torres, assistant director of the Ninde Scholars Program.



About the Ninde Scholars Program

The Ninde Scholars Program helps students with all aspects of the college search and application process. Ninde Scholars are Oberlin High School students in grades 10 through 12, and who have demonstrated a drive for learning and desire to continue their education post-graduation, but who lack the support and resources to apply to college. The Ninde Scholars Program offers rigorous programming.

Ninde participants must commit to:

- attending Oberlin High School full-time;
- meeting weekly with an Oberlin

College student tutor;

- attending a series of workshops and training on the college search process; computer literacy; financing for college, etc.
- participating in several dinners on the Oberlin College campus to meet staff, faculty and students and familiarize themselves with a college atmosphere;
- completing weekly assignments related to college selection and application; and
- participating in the program until they graduate from high school

Ninde Scholars Program Benefits all OHS Students

The Ninde Scholars Program was designed to help a group of Oberlin High School students succeed in school and strive for a better post-secondary education. But many people don't realize that there are numerous Ninde program activities that are available to any OHS student. In fact, nearly all workshops are open to OHS students and parents. The workshops are held

after school and on weekends. They cover a wide range of topics related to the pursuit of college, including: The College Essay Workshop, "Which College is Right for Me" and "Marketing Yourself to Colleges." If you would like to learn more about these sessions, or would even like to volunteer to help with one of these sessions, please contact Will Torres at will.torres@oberlin.edu, 440-775-8190.



"Many people don't realize that there are numerous Ninde program activities that are available to any OHS student."

Dick and Nan Ninde – Generosity with a Clear Purpose

Both Dick and Nan Ninde passed away this year. Richard (Dick) died June 14, surrounded by friends and family at Kendal at Oberlin. Nanciann (Nan) had passed away on Sept. 16, 2006, also at Kendal. Dick Ninde was born in Indiana but spent most of his life in the Columbus area, Nan's hometown. The two lived for many years in the Columbus area where Nan was a volunteer in the public schools. After the Nindes moved to Oberlin they offered a challenge grant of \$450,000 to improve college access opportunities for Oberlin high school students. The community raised funds to meet this challenge and resulting endowment supports the Ninde Scholars Program.

This year marked the second group of graduating Ninde Scholars, each of whom will attend college in the fall. Dick frequently credited Nan as the

real impetus for the program. Both were very pleased to make a difference in the Oberlin Schools. "Dick Ninde was so pleased to be able to attend the Ninde Scholars graduation ceremony this spring" said Kendal resident Demi Carrell. "It meant a lot to him to meet with this group of young people." Bo Arbogast, director of the Ninde Scholars program, added, "The impact of Dick and Nan Ninde's generosity is now becoming very evident. The Ninde Scholars program is a great example of how a single act of generosity can inspire a community to work together in a way that makes a profound impact on people's lives."

Memorial contributions may be sent to The Ninde Scholars at The Community Foundation of Lorain County, 1865 North Ridge Road East, Lorain, OH 44052.

"The impact of Dick and Nan Ninde's generosity is now becoming very evident."

Going to the Hoop with the Ninde Scholars



A group of Oberlin High School students joined up with the Ninde Scholars and Assistant Director Will Torres for a practice game against Oberlin College's men's varsity team. It was a chance for the Ninde Scholars to meet (finally!) in a non-academic setting for fun and socializing.

At nearly 6'5", Will was something of a ringer, but in the end the college team prevailed—but only by one point! We should probably note that the college team had been practicing all day. Rematch, anyone?

"The Ninde Scholars collaboration has created heretofore unimaginable opportunities for Oberlin High School students."

Geoffrey G. Andrews
Oberlin Schools
Superintendent

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.oberlin.edu/ninde



Ninde Scholar Program and Rising SAT scores – a link?

The Plain Dealer reported this fall that Ohio's SAT scores had modest gains in the reading and writing sections. Oberlin scores likewise improved over past years. Ninde Scholars attended specially designed SAT test prep classes this year and

last year. They also worked with tutors, preparing for the math, verbal, and essay sections of the test. While we can't take credit for single-handedly raising OHS scores, it does make you wonder if it's more than just a coincidence!

Bonner Scholars and Ninde Scholars - A Match

One of the goals of our program this past year was to recruit tutors whose background more closely matches the Ninde scholars. We turned to Donna Russell at Oberlin College's Center For Service and Learning. Donna manages the Bonner Scholars program, a program that works with students at Oberlin College who have demonstrated outstanding community service in

their pre-college days, and also have demonstrated financial need for attending college.

It's a great match. Choosing a college and being the first one in the family to apply can be a daunting task. Most Bonner Scholars have just done exactly that, and can strongly identify with what Ninde Scholars are going through.

Profiles of this year's Ninde Scholar Tutors

This year's Ninde Scholar tutors are Amy Caes, Jerome Goings, Jessica Hicks, Kira Rivera, and Amanda VanAllen. **Amy Caes** is a senior from Fresno, CA majoring in Comparative American Studies. Amy served as a writing tutor for the Rhetoric and Composition department and also tutored in physics and mathematics while in high school. She looks forward to providing support for the Ninde scholars as they work through the college admissions process. **Jerome Goings** is a second year student from Las Vegas, Nevada. A potential sociology major and a member of the men's basketball team at Oberlin College, Jerome is a Bonner Scholar who has worked with such organizations as the Boys & Girls Club in Las Vegas and Oberlin, the YMCA, and Main Street Oberlin. He understands the difficulty and stress of the college application process. **Jessica Hicks** is a Bonner Scholar and senior Cinema Studies and English double major from Wheeling, West Virginia. Soon to attend graduate school, she

understands the difficulty of the application process. She has worked on numerous community service projects in Oberlin, including WAVE, the Heart Project, and Kendal at Oberlin. She looks forward to her second year with the program. **Kira Rivera**, a junior from outside Pittsburgh, PA, is a Bonner scholar studying Psychology. Kira has worked with the WAVE program, and with community service programs such as Big Brother/Big Sister in the Pittsburgh area. She remembers quite well having to endure the college application process on her own, and looks forward to helping the Ninde Scholars in that process. **Amanda (Mandi) VanAllen** is a senior and double major in African American Studies and English. She's a Bonner Scholar from Chicago and has also worked with the WAVE program. This is her second year as a tutor and she looks forward to working with two bright High School seniors ((Rachel Daniels and Shaqwé Lawson).

