

Project Promise Newsletter

Educate. *Inspire.* Empower.



Why Project Promise?

As a result of Willamette Academy's success, demand for its services has grown so profoundly that annually over 500 seventh grade students apply for the 40 annual available openings in the program. Project Promise allows the Academy to support students who apply for admission after the 8th grade. We welcome applications from students at any time between grades 8 and 12. Additionally, Project Promise also serves siblings and other family members of our Willamette Academy students. Ultimately, we hope that through Project Promise we can serve more youth from our community in their pursuit of higher education.

Expectations of Project Promise Scholars and their Families

Promise scholars are expected to: *Participate in a respectful community - Return signed forms and complete assigned tasks - Attend required Willamette Academy study sessions - Check in with their mentors on a regular basis - Attend all designated events for grade level - Academically maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA - Complete college preparatory coursework - Participate in community service activities each semester and build their College Resume.*



Program Description

Project Promise is a Willamette Academy program dedicated to increasing access to higher education for promising students from historically under-represented groups in our Salem Keizer community. Project Promise reaches out to students who are in the 8th -12th grades and consists of a series of workshops, seminars, and clinics that will provide admitted students and their families with the confidence, resources, and skills needed to succeed on their path to college.

In addition to reinforcing the message and reality that every student is "college material," Project Promise will complement our other college-readiness efforts by getting students and their families on a college campus, introducing them to Willamette staff, faculty, and students, and helping to demystify the college and financial aid application processes.

Partnering with Parents and Guardians Project



Project Promise provides support and resources for students, and with a collaboration between student, parents and the program we can do even greater things! Parents and guardians play an integral role in the successes of Promise Scholars.

Firstly, parents and guardians are expected to sign all required forms and documents and arrange for transportation to and from the Academy. Secondly, as parents and guardians of Promise Scholars, families are invited to attend workshops and clinics throughout the academic year. In these workshops families can learn about the resources available for students on their road to college. These meetings also are a great opportunity for parents and guardians to meet other parents with students in Project Promise and be able to build their own community of support for each other and their students. Finally, parents and guardians are responsible to notify Willamette Academy if events are missed, if you move, or for any changes regarding your student's academic or extra-curricular activities.

Become a Project Promise Scholar! Every Student is College Material!

The students who we admit must demonstrate academic potential and have the ambition to attend a four-year college or university. Project Promise is designed to serve*:

- **Students from low income families**
- **Students who are the first in their families to attend college**
- **Students from historically underrepresented racial groups**
- **Students who have recently immigrated to the United States**

**Applicants do not need to fulfill all categories in order to be eligible for Project Promise.*

Applications are open to all students in grades 8 through 12. Admission is based on a student and family application, as well as recommendation and information provided by the candidate's school.

Application materials are available on our website: willamette.edu/academy/promise.

Questions? Please email wa-promise@willamette.edu or call our offices at 503.370.6103.



Project Promise Resources



The WA Academic Resource Center is available and open every Friday from 3-7 PM for Promise Scholars. Promise Scholars meet with an Academic Mentor, receive free tutoring, interact with academy staff and Willamette University students, and network with other high school and middle school students. The Center also offers other resources including computers with internet access, printing, graphing calculators, and more!

Project Promise Workshops: Throughout the year, Promise Scholars and their families take advantage of several workshops designed to support students' success in high school and pursuit of college. These workshops held at Willamette University focus on a variety of topics including:

High School 101:

Provides families with the necessary tools and resources in order to develop a successful high-school experience.

College Track 101:

Provides families with a clear and detailed understanding of the college admission process and how to help their student be the best applicant they can be.

Financial Aid 101:

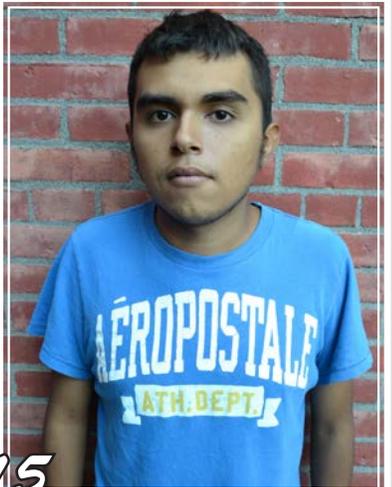
Informs students and their families about the numerous financial aid opportunities available to them.

Scholarship 101:

Specifically teaches parents/guardians successful strategies and techniques for completing successful scholarship applications.

And Many More Including:

Balancing Time & Volunteer Opportunities, College Resume Building, and College Search, etc...



Project Promise Class of 2015





The success of Willamette Academy's Project Promise Program depends upon a broad base of financial support which includes foundations, businesses, and individuals. This support allows us to provide and expand our services that help youth in our community obtain the dream of attending college.

You can make a tremendous difference in the lives of local youth by making a contribution to Willamette Academy.

Find Us on Facebook!

Project Promise is now on Facebook! We have a page for Project Promise families, parents, and guardians, and a page for Project Promise students. Facebook pages are places to receive reminders about events and workshops, as well as a way to share events and opportunities.




**WILLAMETTE
ACADEMY**
willamette.edu/academy
(503) 370-6103



HOW TO DONATE

To donate, fill out this form with your information, and place donation in an envelope.

Name _____ *Photos courtesy of WU sophomore, EDGAR JIMENEZ.*

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Or donate online at: willamette.edu/academy

Please make checks payable to Willamette Academy and mail to:

Willamette Academy
900 State St.
Salem, OR 97301

