



ROBINSON REPORT

HIGH SCHOOL LIFE • JANUARY 2013

EQT Foundation provides major funding for RSP

The EQT Foundation has provided a \$50,000 grant to the Robinson Scholars Program to support our high school programming in 2012-13. Through its corporate citizenship initiative, the 120-year old natural gas company helps make possible Robinson summer camps, school-year development programs, and meaningful community service among Robinson Leaders and Scholars.



“Providing resources that promote proficiency in core academic skills opens up a world of options and choices for students who may not have had them before. In turn, they are in a greater position to make positive contributions directly affecting the stability and health of their community and local economy,” said EQT Foundation President Charlene Petrelli.

The support that RSP receives from foundations, corporations, and individuals is important for our high school program, which creates the foundation for the success of our students. If you are interested in joining EQT Foundation in its financial support of the Robinson Scholars Program, contact Jeff Spradling, at 859-357-5230 or via email at jspra2@uky.edu.

Entrepreneurial spirit

Brittany King and Garrett Dunn, Robinson Leaders from Wolfe County, participated in an agriculture entrepreneurship project with support from a Robinson Scholars mini-grant. Both raised garden plots during the summer of 2012 and sold their produce. The entrepreneurs received technical assistance and much encouragement from Daniel Wilson, Wolfe County Extension Agent for Agriculture, and Crystal Sparks, in the UK Department of Horticulture.



Scholar raises money to benefit elderly

Jesse Stallsworth recently raised \$5,000 to buy a new piano for the Rockcastle Health and Rehabilitation Center. The Class 13 Scholar frequently visits his grandmother at the Center and often plays piano to entertain the residents. He decided that the Center's piano was beyond repair and that he needed to do something about it.



The Rockcastle County High senior used a banner with piano keys representing his fund raising progress. Each key cost \$56.82. On Oct. 1, the Center held an open house to dedicate the new piano, and Jesse entertained those in attendance. In addition to buying a piano, he also raised enough money to buy new hymnals and sound equipment.

Selecting Class 14 Scholars

Late this spring, we will select our 14th class of Robinson Scholars. The new selection reflects a significant change in how we prepare high school students for college and how we choose scholars.

Our new model delays scholar selection until the end of the junior year of high school. Our new process will also establish a more consistent set of criteria in choosing scholars. Students will be rated on their academic performance and personal achievement. The goal is to find talented first generation students who are well rounded, ready to be active members of their communities, and take leadership roles at the University.

Our high school initiative, now in its third year, prepares all of our participants for college success. In addition to broad academic preparation, Robinson Leaders learn the life skills necessary to be successful in college. Even those who are not selected to be Robinson Scholars will be competitive for many scholarships and honors because they have solid academic preparation and demonstrate active citizenship.



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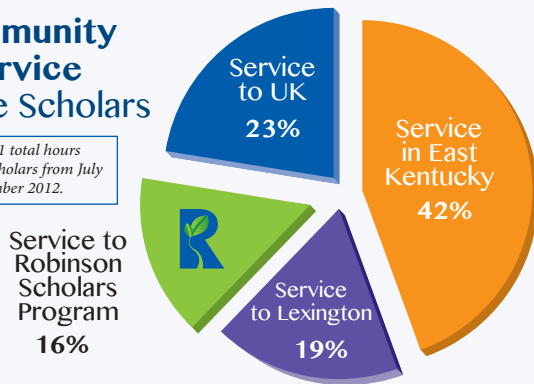
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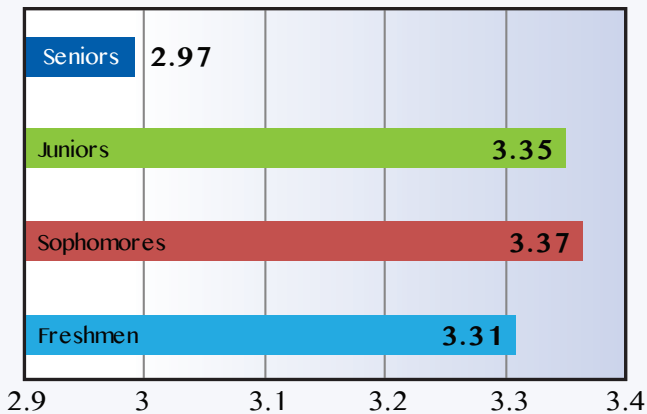
In the classroom and their communities, College Scholars are making the grade.

Community Service College Scholars

Percent of 1251 total hours reported by Scholars from July 2012 to December 2012.



College GPAs Fall 2012



Felisa Bowman participates in Clinton Global Initiative

Felisa Bowman, a junior political science major from Owsley County, was part of a Clinton Global Initiative in her hometown. Through a paid internship at UK's Appalachian Center, Bowman became a key "boots on the ground" participant in the project this past summer.



Homegrown Kentucky developed a community garden on a 10-acre site at Owsley County High School. Vegetables from the garden were served in the high school cafeteria. The project was initiated by UK students, and technical support was provided by the UK College of Agriculture.

Bowman, who wants to pursue a law degree, organized volunteer efforts. "I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to be a vital member of a project that was far bigger than me," Bowman said. "This project has touched the lives of many Owsley countians and has inspired many neighboring counties to become involved. I believe it's my duty to give back to a spectacular community that has given me so much!"

Carter County Scholar exemplifies commitment to community

Megan Henderson is active in community service, both at UK and in the region. Henderson devotes her time to projects such as DanceBlue, a fundraiser for UK Children's Hospital, and Circle of Love, which helps underprivileged grade school children during Christmas.

"I have really enjoyed working with DanceBlue," Henderson said. "Seeing the children letting go of their worries and playing and hearing the memoirs of those involved makes the whole effort worthwhile. I also enjoyed adopting the (Circle of Love) family for Christmas. This was a touching experience."

"Megan truly exemplifies what it means to be a Robinson Scholar," said George Scott, RSP's college services coordinator. "Throughout her college years Megan has demonstrated leadership and commitment to the program."

The Class 9 Scholar is a senior from Carter County. She will graduate in May 2013 with a degree in kinesiology.



After the May 2009 flood in Olive Hill, Megan Henderson organized a group of her friends to help with improvements to the senior citizen's park. Their work included adding benches, painting, planting flowers, and providing outdoor games. Photo courtesy of the Olive Hill Times.