



All Things Ignatian



Gateway Program Omaha Area Cohort

Assisting Omaha area high school seniors with the Gates Millennium Scholarship and college process

The Gateway Program is a multi-faceted program that integrates the efforts of both the Fall and Spring Break Cultural Immersions and the Omaha Area Cohort. For the Omaha Area Cohort, the Gateway Program strives to provide access to higher education for low-income minority students using the Gates Millennium Scholarship (GMS) as a vehicle for higher education.

The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program, funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was established in 1999 to provide outstanding African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American, and Hispanic American students with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education in any discipline of interest.

Building Dreams: The Mentor Experience

The program also relies heavily on the continued support of the Creighton community who serve as volunteers, mentors, and editors for the Gateway participants. Gateway mentors serve as role models for students engaged in the learning process and offer valuable instructional support while completing the GMS application.



"I have experienced a deep and rewarding sense of having contributed to the mission and vision of Creighton when I had the chance to watch a Gate's Scholarship student that I mentored walk to receive her diploma at Commencement this past May."

**Bill Raynovich, Ed.D. Associate Professor
Emergency Medical Services, University College**



Creighton University Gates Scholars at the Gates Orientation dinner

Omaha Area Cohort

The Omaha Area Cohort consists of metropolitan area high school juniors and seniors who have demonstrated interest in the program, applied to be a participant in the Gateway Program, and meet the requirements to apply for the GMS scholarship. As a participant in the program, each student receives intensive, comprehensive support completing the GMS application and the overall college application process. Participants attend multiple monthly workshops covering topics such as resume writing, personal statement development, financial literacy, essay writing, and college selection.



"Being a part of the Creighton Gateway Program has been such a great help as well as a memorable experience that I'll always cherish."

Tara Samadi, 2011-2012 Gateway Program Participant – Burke High School

Gateway Impact

Year	Total GMS	GMS Enrolled at Creighton	% Enrolled at Creighton
2001-2002	2	2	100%
2002-2003	8	7	88%
2003-2004	13	7	54%
2004-2005	24	9	38%
2005-2006	26	10	38%
2006-2007	24	10	42%
2007-2008	24	11	46%
2008-2009	14	8	57%
2009-2010	17	8	47%
2010-2011	17	8	47%
TOTAL	169	80	47%

Want more? Contact Jessica Swisher at jessicaswisher@creighton.edu

Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality.