

# BRIGHT FUTURE

Scripps mentoring program receives high honor from the White House

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COURIER photo/Steven Felschundneff

Scripps College sophomore Lathelma Armstrong helps Claremont High School freshman Nina Camacho, 14, with her homework on Monday in Claremont. The pair are part of an award winning mentoring program at Scripps that helps local middle and high school girls prepare for entering college.

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CHS students show how making a cool homecoming float is one way to display strong school spirit

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Dick Larson will not be easy to forget when you watch a football game at Damien  
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Sanitation situation closer to an end

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# Agreement reached on city sanitation after concessions

Trash continued to be a hot topic at Tuesday night's city council meeting. The council learned about a counter bid from a landfill manager hoping to serve Claremont's long term trash disposal needs, discussed the recent labor agreement between the city and its sanitation employees and heard a report about the day-to-day operation of Claremont's sanitation department.

City Manager Jeff Parker announced that a bid came in from Republic Enterprises, which manages the Orange County landfill where Claremont currently has a contract for trash disposal. The 25-year contract bid came in response to Claremont's plans to switch trash service to San Bernardino County for the next 20 years.

The Community Services Commission will meet on Tuesday, November 30 to hear the proposals from both San Bernardino County and Republic Enterprises, Mr. Parker said. The commission will forward its recommendations to the council for a final decision in early

## city council

December. In the meantime, Claremont will maintain a month-to-month contract with Republic Enterprises until a final decision is made.

Regarding trash pick up, the city council then voted in favor of a side letter agreement between the city and sanitation employees. The employees agreed to some CalPERS concessions if the city agreed to put off a study of privatization of sanitation services for another 5 years.

The concessions include the employees paying 8 percent of their salary towards the PERS employer paid member contribution and agreeing to a PERS 2-tier plan of 2 percent at 55 to be applied to new employees hired in the future.

The council voted 3 to 2 in favor of the agreement, with council members Peter Yao and Corey Calaycay against. Mr. Yao explained his 'no' vote, saying the city could save between \$2.5 and \$5 million over the next 5 years by privatizing its sanitation services.

He would prefer to first hear the details of the RFPs by the 4 private sanitation companies before voting on

an agreement with the sanitation employees. "We're deciding what the next 5 years of trash pick up will be before we have an opportunity to listen to how the system works," Mr. Yao said.

Later in the meeting, the council heard a report about the city's sanitation program from interim Director of Community Services Pat Malloy. The city has 4 main waste streams: solid waste, recyclable materials, green waste and construction and demolition materials.

Solid waste is collected at homes, businesses and institutional facilities and transported to the city yard where it is dumped into a loading pit. A trailer capable of carrying up to 20 tons of refuse then transports the trash to Olinda Alpha Landfill in the city of Brea in Orange County.

Recycled materials are also collected at homes, businesses and institutional locations. The material is then transported to Mission Recycling MRF in Pomona, which sorts and recycles the material. The city's green waste is collected and taken to Recycled Wood Products in Pomona and processed into mulch. Construction and demolition material are collected from construction sites in the city and taken to the private company MacTec Cleanup Corporation in Riverside.

— Tony Krickl

# Mentoring program garners White House distinction

A program at Scripps College has touched the lives of many local high school students who've dreamed of a brighter future.

Now the Scripps College Academy (SCA), a free year-round college-readiness program for high-achieving young women in the greater Los Angeles area, has been recognized for its accomplishments.

The Academy received the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, considered the nation's highest honor for after-school arts and humanities programs, particularly those that reach underserved children and youth. The award is bestowed by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and was presented at the White House by First Lady Michelle Obama.

A contingent from Scripps College made the trip to Washington DC earlier this month to receive the award at the White House. Dean of Faculty Amy Marcus Newhall and SCA participant Raemi Thomas, a junior at New Millennium Secondary School in Carson, attended the ceremony.

"[Ms. Obama] gave our student a huge hug and whispered into her ear how proud she was of her," said Kelly Hewitt, Director of the SCA. "What an experience for her."

SCA helps students who may lack the resources necessary to train themselves for success at top colleges and universities. Through mentorship from Scripps College faculty and staff, participants develop the confidence and skills to be well-prepared college applicants and successful college students.

Established in 2002, the program was promoted by its former director who toured area high schools to talk about its benefits. But the word is out about the program's effectiveness. Over the past 2 years, applications have jumped by 400 percent.

"I think that shows there's truly a need out there for this type of program," Ms. Hewitt said.

During a 2-week summer course, high school students get to experience life on a college campus, living in the dorms, eating in the dining halls and attending lectures.

The program also offers SAT preparation courses, college application courses, finance aid application courses and year-round tutoring for girls in 7th to 12th



COURIER photo/Steven Felschundneff  
Scripps freshman Max Greenberg, center left, helps Esme Garcia, 17, with her math homework while Nina Camacho, 14, far left, and Andrea Bran, 14, study on Monday at Scripps College.

grade. Volunteers also organize "college clubs" at local middle schools to get younger students thinking about higher education at an early age. Many program participants come from low-income families and all programs and courses are free.

"We understand that costs can sometimes be a barrier to these types of programs," Ms. Hewitt said. "But we believe these opportunities should be available to everyone, regardless of resources. So everything is free. We even provide transportation."

SCA Scholars are routinely admitted to top colleges and universities throughout the country. One hundred percent of the class of 2010 was admitted to 4-year institutions, including Scripps College, Pomona College, Princeton University, Dartmouth College, UCLA and Occidental College. Many of the participants are the first in their families to attend college.

The program was chosen from a pool of more than 400 nominations and 50 finalists to receive the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. SCA was the youngest program to receive the award this year, Ms. Hewitt said.

Yyenne Dominguez, of Montclair, became involved in the program as a high school student. Now she is a sophomore at Scripps College and volunteers in the tutoring program for current SCA participants.

"It gave me an opportunity to go on a college campus and connect with students and professors," Ms. Dominguez said. "I'm a first generation student and couldn't ask my parents for help in the application process. The program helped me through that and I learned about scholarships and financial aid so that I could attend a private school like Scripps."

— Tony Krickl