



# Annual Report 2014

## WORKING TO EDUCATE CHICAGO'S FUTURE LEADERS

### DEAR FRIENDS,

Waking up at 5 AM to catch one of three buses or trains. Rushing from school to swim practice or a Model UN meeting, coming home, eating dinner, taking care of the family needs, doing homework and finishing after midnight. Squeezing in time for ACT study sessions. Avoiding the pervasive danger of drugs and gangs in their neighborhoods. These are small glimpses into the daily lives of HFS Chicago Scholars.

Our supporters leave our Leadership Breakfast and other events each year whispering their amazement over our scholars' stories. For our scholars, however, this is just part of who they are and their journey to achieving their goals.

Through the generous contributions of our supporters, our students receive tuition assistance, one-on-one mentors, academic guidance and discipline and college preparation and support. What our students give in return speaks for itself: 90 percent of our scholars make the high school honor roll each year and 100 percent gain admission into a college or university. In neighborhoods where the odds are stacked against them, our scholars demonstrate there is no greater return on investment than individual promise that is realized. In bearing witness to what our scholars achieve, we know of no better example of what people can do when they are given a chance.

On behalf of HFS Chicago Scholars, thank you for giving at-risk Chicago teens a chance to show what character, hard work and dreaming big can yield in life.

Best Regards,



**DESIREE PEPPER-VENZANT**  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Pepper-Venzant".



**MICHAEL J. KENNELLY**  
Founder & Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Kennelly".



### Quick Facts and Stats: HFS Chicago Scholars

- Founded in 1993
- Helps economically disadvantaged Chicago high school students who show academic and leadership promise
- Asks for four-year written commitment holding our scholars to a set of performance expectations
- Provides financial assistance for our scholars to attend top Chicago private high schools
- Provides each scholar with a young professional mentor and each class of scholars with an academic director
- Provides educational enrichment and group activities outside the classroom as well as college selection and admissions support

# CLASS OF 2014

Few words are needed to describe our Class of 2014. Their stories speak for themselves.



## Rashaan Castillo

A RECENT GRADUATE OF **St. Ignatius College Prep**, Rashaan Castillo will attend **Denison University (OH)** in the fall. Rashaan ran track during his junior and senior years, and was also a representative of ALAS (Alliance of Latin American Students). Outside of school, he helps out at his community church and tutors children at Chicago Jesuit Academy. Rashaan was awarded a prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship to fund his college education. "HFS Chicago Scholars," says Rashaan, "made it possible for me to go to a prestigious school. I want to thank the whole organization for making my college dreams a reality!"

GRADUATE	HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED	UNIVERSITY ATTENDING
Jennifer Aguayo	De La Salle Institute	Cornell College
Rashaan Castillo	St. Ignatius College Prep	Denison University
Ivette Cebrero	Trinity High School	University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
Zain Danani	St. Ignatius College Prep	University of Michigan
Tiara Davis	St. Francis de Sales High School	St. Olaf College
Evelin Duran	St. Ignatius College Prep	Pomona College
Kala Epkins-Henderson	Notre Dame High School for Girls	North Carolina A&T State University
Diana Gutierrez	St. Ignatius College Prep	University of Illinois - Chicago
Natalia Herrera	Fenwick High School	Marquette University
Cache Lane	Fenwick High School	University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
Cecilia Lopez	Maria Charter	Harold Washington College
Juanita McDonald	Trinity High School	University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
Alishah Pearine	Gordon Tech College Prep	University of Illinois - Chicago
Angel Roman	Northridge Preparatory School	University of Illinois - Chicago
Lisette Sanchez	Cristo Rey Jesuit High School	University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
Dijonnais Thomas	Queen of Peace High School	University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
Onika Walker	De La Salle Institute	Northern Illinois University

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**Contact us:**

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# 8th Annual Leadership Breakfast

HFS Chicago Scholars is thrilled to announce that The Honorable Anne Burke, Illinois Supreme Court Justice from the 1st District, will serve as our Keynote Speaker this year. We are fortunate to again have great co-chairs:

- Larry Barden, Sidley Austin LLP
- Deborah DeHaas, Deloitte LLP
- Julie Howard, Navigant

The Leadership Breakfast, our primary fundraiser, has grown in turnout, attention and benefit every year. With your generous support, we continue on that trajectory this year. If you haven't already, please visit our website at [www.hfshichagoscholars.com](http://www.hfshichagoscholars.com) and reserve your table today. We look forward to seeing you there!



HFS Chicago Scholars  
8th Annual Leadership Breakfast

Friday, September 19, 2014  
7:30 – 9:00 AM

The Standard Club  
320 South Plymouth Court  
Grand Ballroom



## Natalia Herrera

NATALIA HERRERA, a two year HFS class officer, graduated in May from Fenwick High School. In the fall, she will attend Marquette University (WI) where she will study psychology. Her extracurricular activities at Fenwick included Student Council, Student Ambassadors, the Hispanic Outreach Latino Awareness (HOLA), art clubs, and writing for the school newspaper. Natalia describes her experience with her mentor, Kay McGee, as “life-changing” and she knows that they will stay in touch. Thanks to HFS, Natalia was able to meet other amazing scholars, go on college visits, volunteer at caring organizations, and receive an esteemed education.

## 2014 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

HFS Chicago Scholars Statement of Activities for the years ended June 30, 2013 and 2014.

	2014	2013
<b>Revenues</b> . . . . .	\$ 544,885	\$ 441,083
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program Expense . . . . .	276,323	278,677
Management Expense . . . . .	9,184	10,010
Fundraising Expense . . . . .	3,890	4,294
Total Expenses . . . . .	289,397	292,981
Change in Net Assets . . . . .	255,488	148,102
Net Assets - Beginning of Year . . . . .	429,936	281,834
<b>Net Assets - End of Year</b> . . . . .	<b>\$ 685,424</b>	<b>\$ 429,936</b>

## DONORS: JULY 1, 2014 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

“HFS is proud to receive the continued, generous support of our sponsors and donors. Our mission depends on it.”

Desirée Pepper-Venzant  
Executive Director

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## Evelyn Duran

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EVELYN DURAN is poised to enter **Pomona College (CA)** as a freshman and a newly minted Posse Scholar. She is a recent graduate of **St. Ignatius College Prep** who aspires to major in either pre-med or psychology in order to become a psychologist or pediatrician. In high school, Evelyn

loved math and science classes because she enjoyed solving complex problems and working with numbers.

Her proudest accomplishment is becoming president of Club ALAS (Alliance of Latin American Students) in order to familiarize her school with the Latin American Culture. Evelyn spends her free time rowing with the Chicago Training Center crew team and playing the violin.

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