

Pinay Aspirations awards scholarships to at-risk youth

San Francisco, CA --- Pinay Aspirations, a not-for-profit organization created by an accomplished team of professional Pinay women, today announced the completion of the 2009 Pinay Aspire Scholarship Award finalist search. The finalists were chosen from a competitive pool of 17 college-bound at-risk female high school students from all over the San Francisco Bay Area who each submitted a detailed scholarship application including essay questions, academic transcripts, and letter of recommendation. Applications were evaluated by a volunteer panel of Filipino professionals. Selected applicants were then individually interviewed for award consideration. The names of the 2009 finalists and award winners will be announced at the Pinay Aspirations Awards Reception event on July 26, 2009 at the luxurious Poleng Lounge in San Francisco.

The Pinay Aspire Scholarship was established in 2006 to support and promote the advancement of Bay Area Filipinas through education and mentoring. Since its inception, Pinay Aspirations has received applications from Filipina high school students in and beyond the San Francisco Bay Area. The organization has awarded scholarships to inspiring young Filipinas who have demonstrated fortitude and are well-grounded within their community.

"In these challenging economic times, our mission has never been more important," said President and Founder Elaine Serina. "We created Pinay Aspirations to give back to our Filipino community by supporting and encouraging at-risk youth who have triumphed over adversity while keeping academics



and Filipino cultural pride a priority in their lives. We provide these students with essential knowledge, tools, and support for a lifetime of success into college and beyond."

The Pinay Aspire Scholarship recipients are exceptional young women of Filipino descent and who will attend college in the 2009-2010 academic year. Pinay Aspire Scholarship recipients demonstrated personal, community and/or academic successes while also overcom-

ing personal hardship or disadvantaged upbringing. They exude pride in their Philippine heritage. Recipients of the Pinay Aspire Scholarship Award receive a \$1000.00 academic scholarship, a professional Pinay woman mentor for one (1) year, and access to the Pinay Aspirations professional network and extensive knowledge-base.

About Pinay Aspirations
Pinay Aspirations is a not-for-profit organization created to promote the aspi-

rations of Filipino youth in education, the community, personal growth and career development. Pinay Aspirations achieves these goals through scholarships, mentorship programs, community service and other activities or resources that will enhance their personal development and advancement in life. Pinay Aspirations continues to partner with organizations that actively support the advancement of Filipino youth.

Pinay Aspirations Leadership Team

Elaine R. Serina, Ph.D., President and Founder

Dr. Serina is an active member of the Filipino community and is dedicated to mentoring girls and women. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Filipina Women's Network, and the UC Berkeley Engineering Alumni Association, on the Advisory Council of the Daly City Youth Health Center and is currently co-authoring Step-Ins, a collection of stories and photographs of Filipino American women. Dr. Serina is also a Principal of Talas Engineering, Inc., a nationally-recognized engineering consulting firm. She received her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from UC Berkeley.

Marissa Esperanza Catubig, Vice President

M. Esperanza Catubig is a graduate of SMU's Meadows School of the Arts with a BFA in Acting. Experienced in the Arts & Entertainment industry, working with various non-profit organizations, she believes theatre is a fun tool for education and creating diversity. Currently working in SF and LA, she is a member of YFPA, Filipina Women's Network, Theatre Bay Area, three personal unions. She has spent several years of touring schools all over California with Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre Programs.

Jessica Gomez, Treasurer

As a Human Resource professional with PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ms. Gomez has made a career in mentoring and coaching young professionals and youth. She is an active member of Junior Achievement, educating youth on business, entrepreneurship and financial literacy. Ms. Gomez is personally committed to the advancement of Asian American girls through education and mentoring. Ms. Gomez is a native to the San Francisco Bay Area and currently resides in San Francisco. She has a B.A. in Political Science from California State University, Long Beach.

Pinay Aspirations • 1800 Bryant Street #212, San Francisco, CA • www.PinayAspirations.org

Pinay Aspirations Launches 2009 Scholarship Fundraising Campaign to Benefit College-Bound At-Risk Filipino Youth

Pinay Aspire Scholarship Award Reception
Scheduled for July 26th in San Francisco

(June 2009) San Francisco, CA --- Pinay Aspirations, a not-for-profit organization created by an accomplished team of professional Pinay women, today announced the kickoff of its 2009 Scholarship fundraising drive to raise money for the Pinay Aspire Scholarship Award and other essential community programs. All donations made to the organization are tax-deductible and will be used to support and promote the advancement of the Bay Area Filipino community youth through education and mentoring.

The names of the 2009 Pinay Aspire Scholarship finalists and award-winners will be announced at the Pinay Aspirations Awards Reception event on July 26, 2009 at the luxurious Poleng Lounge in San Francisco. Special guest performances will include: Kristine Sinajon (singing star of Lalawigan), An Isotope (Bobby Aboyme, Jerold Reodia, James Reodica, Marlon Evangelista), and one of Bay Area's finest saxophonists, Jonathan Bautista (SF School of the Arts Alum). For more information and to RSVP for the event, please contact us at pinay.aspirations@gmail.com.

How To Make a Donation

Individual and corporate donations are tax-deductible and can be sent to Pinay Aspirations in the following forms:

* Checks: please make donations payable to Philippine International Aid Attn: PINAY ASPIRATIONS and mail to: 1800 Bryant Street, #212, San Francisco, CA 94110

* Facebook: donations can also be made through Facebook Causes. To donate, login to Facebook and goto <http://apps.facebook.com/>

causes/307180?m=a3ca6663. Individuals can also search for Pinay Aspirations on Facebook Causes by going to <http://apps.facebook.com/causes>, then enter the search term "Pinay Aspirations"

* Internet: individuals who do not have a Facebook account can also make an online donation by going to https://www.causes.com/fb/donations/new?cause_id=307180&fundraiser_id=16239450&m=38d81d22

About the Pinay Aspire Scholarship

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