



All Things Ignatian



Gates Mentoring Program

Assisting high school students with the Gates Millennium Scholarship application and college process

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



2007 Gates recipient, **Tai Do**, receiving mentoring assistance from a Journalism major during the *'Proof Reading and Pizza Workshop.*
Creighton University, Senior Psychology/pre-pharmacy

The Scholarship

The Gates Millennium Scholars Program (GMS), established in 1999, was initially funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The scholarship provides outstanding, low in-come 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 area of interest. Continuing Gates Millennium Scholars may request funding for a graduate degree program in one of the seven funded discipline areas: computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health or science. The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence by providing thousands of outstanding minority students the opportunity to reach their full potential.



Creighton students working together on a service learning project during an Immersion trip

Gates Mentoring Program

The Gates Mentoring Program is a collaboration of Creighton students, staff, and faculty. They assist high school students in the greater Omaha area through a series of Gates workshops and mentor the students through the college application process. Mentors assist a wide variety of students from many ethnic backgrounds with the interest and ability to succeed in college. The main purpose of the mentoring program is to assist the students with process of completing the Gates Millennium Scholarship application and the college process. The role of a Gates mentor includes: resume development, editing and proofreading material, providing feedback and encouragement, and supporting the student throughout the scholarship and college application process.

Gates Mentors

"I believe in education and the opportunities education can bring. Helping students reach for those opportunities is very important to me"

Carol Zuegner, Ph.D., BA'77
Associate Professor of Journalism



2007 Gates recipient, **Monica Ibarra**, receiving mentoring at a Gates Workshop. She was grateful for the help she received and wanted to give back. Monica is frequent mentor and Immersion trip participant.

Creighton University, Senior School of Nursing

Fall & Spring Immersions

The Gates Immersions take place twice each academic year during the Fall and Spring break. The purpose of the immersion is to partner with reservation communities and help potentially eligible Native American students complete the GMS scholarship application and to encourage them to consider college as an option. The immersions include reservations in Nebraska, South Dakota, New Mexico, and Arizona. Students, mostly those involved with Student Support Services, volunteer their break to participate in service, college preparation workshops, essay editing, resume development, and more. During the immersions the students work with high school juniors and seniors to prepare them for the Gates Millennium Scholarship. Additionally, they also work with other grades on general college preparation, college life, and ACT preparation. When they are not in the classroom the immersion participants also get involved with local service learning projects and obtaining a better cultural understanding of the community they are visiting.