



NEW LEADER SCHOLAR BIOS 2009

ELIAZAR CHACHA graduated from Berkeley in 2010, majoring in both African American and Interdisciplinary Studies and minoring in Education. He has been accepted to Harvard Law School and plans to defer his admission in order to enroll jointly in a Ph.D. Program in History. He hopes to focus on law and race in his doctoral education. Eliazar is the child of immigrants who came to the United States on university scholarships provided by their native Tanzania. He grew up poor as his parents felt it was their duty to give back to the country, community and village that provided them with educational opportunity. While in college, Eliazar faced even greater challenges personally and financially, but remained determined to continue his education. Eliazar had learned the profound lessons of determination and giving back to his community from his parents and used those lessons to change his future. In addition to his academic achievements, he has tutored underprivileged students at Willard Middle School in Berkeley and was a facilitator for an Education 190 course focused on the educational and legal frameworks that perpetuate inequality.

JULIE GRAMLICH graduated from UC, Berkeley with a major in Political Economy. Currently, she is working at Google and plans to save money for post-graduate studies in law with the goal of practicing public interest law. In her senior year, she spent a semester in Washington D.C. doing research and interning on Capitol Hill. Her mother, an immigrant from Japan, raised Julie with a deep exposure to the Japanese language and culture, as well as a commitment to education. As a “kyooiku mama”—an education-focused mom—Julie’s mother instilled in her the commitment to education as a means of achieving beyond her family’s economic challenges. In addition to her rigorous studies, Julie volunteered at the Miss Asian America Pageant and was the District Leader for the World Peace Buddhist Club.

ANGEL KU (See 2011 entry, awarded a second New Leader Scholarship),

ELIZABETH McCoy graduated from San Francisco State University in 2011 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology. She plans to continue post-graduate work to earn a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. As the single mother of two, Elizabeth’s commitment to her education encompasses both her dedication to being an example for her children, as well as her passionate interest in researching the issues of self-destructiveness and resilience in the aftermath of family dysfunction. Raised in an emotionally and psychologically challenging environment, Elizabeth’s work and training have allowed her to use her past to shape her dedication to becoming both a professor of psychology and a clinical psychologist. “By embracing both clinical and academic facets of Psychology, I can contribute to the advancement of mental health on a social and individual level.” Now working in Contra Costa County as an African American Health Conductor for the Center for Human Development, she is a re-entry specialist. In addition to her other duties, she has developed a community garden to encourage healthy eating for the clients that she works with.

MELISSA RIVAS (See 2011 entry, awarded a second New Leader Scholarship)

ESTHER M. GREEN graduated from U.C., Berkeley with a major in Spanish and a minor in Public Policy. Currently enrolled as a Master's student in Public Administration at San Francisco State University, Esther is also working as a career counselor in Berkeley's Program for Disadvantaged Students. While working as a case worker for Alameda County Social Services Department and seeing firsthand the "disenfranchised position of the most vulnerable members of our community" prompted her return to school. As a child raised in East Oakland by a mother on welfare, she is committed to attaining a Master's Degree in Public Policy as well as a law degree. She was accepted into the Institute for Civic Leadership at Mills, was a McNair Scholar, and was selected by the Goldman School of Public Policy to attend their Public Policy and International Affairs Program the summer before last. Despite her heavy academic work load and three children, Esther has volunteered at the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant and at the UC Student Parent Association for Recruitment and Retention. This is her second New Leader Scholarship.

CHRISTYNA SERRANO (See 2012 entry, awarded a Sixth New Leader Scholarship).