

SNLP NEWS & UPDATES

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NASH NEWSFLASH

In Memoriam

Wilma Mankiller (1945-2010)

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Wilma Mankiller, first female Chief of the Cherokee Nation and Principle Chief for 10 years from 1985-1998. Wilma was a leader in the truest sense: she believed in the power and voice of her community to make positive change and she led that way for over 10 years. She was also generous with her time and came to visit **Sadie Nash Leadership Project** from her native Oklahoma in summer 2003 to speak with 30 young women about their leadership. It was a truly special moment for all of us, and she will be missed.



Nashers with "Leader" Wilma Mankiller in 2003.

Speaking of Leadership...

This spring, SNLP Program Associate **Promiti Islam** was invited by Catherine McAuley High School, an all-girls residential school in East Flatbush, Brooklyn, to deliver a **keynote address** at their annual Achievement Assembly. She spoke on leadership and young women's empowerment, topics addressed during a semester long class she taught there called **Street Smarts**, with the Center for Anti-Violence Education.

Some Newark News Too!

Tynesha McHarris, Director of Sadie Nash Newark, was awarded a prestigious **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Ladder to Leadership** fellowship representing the Greater Newark area. As a **Ladder to Leadership Fellow**, she is among an esteemed cohort of peers who will explore community health leadership roles and responsibilities in intensive leadership training over a 16-month period, a value of over \$20,000. For her work with Sadie Nash Newark, Tynesha is one of few *non*-health workers to have received this honor. Congratulations Tynesha!

We Got the Party Started Right!

Sadie Nash Leadership Project PARTY - aka "bar party" - was a huge success, **raising over \$15,000**, double our 2009 results. On November 2nd, over 180 people came to **Bubble Lounge** in Tribeca to support Sadie Nash, enjoy a **Nash-e-Ilini** (a special champagne cocktail), and bid on the live auction! The biggest thanks go to our incredible **Party Committee** of young people who raised all of the funds on their own! Thanks also to: Bubble Lounge for donating the space, DJ Reborn for her fabulous music, and the numerous auction and raffle donors. **Get ready for Bar Party 2011!**



Diane Nash poses with her interviewers Elizabeth Linton (SNLP 2009) and Virginia Thomas (SNLP 2006). Photo credit D. Hartley

Because Two Nash-es Are Better than One!

This past spring, the Board of Directors of SNLP hosted the 2nd annual **Garden Party: Cultivating Fresh Ideas on Leadership**, at a lovely half acre private garden in downtown Manhattan. The party was a huge success: with over 120 guests rapt as two participants interviewed civil rights hero **Diane Nash**. Ms. Nash shared insights on her powerful leadership journey through the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s as a student of and activist for non-violence, one of the founders of the Student Nonviolence Coordinating Committee, and a leader in the Nashville sit-ins resulting in desegregated lunch counters. We were also honored to give the **Brooklyn Community Foundation** our first **Petticoat Award**, named for a story about Sadie Nash (the woman) and given to an SNLP funder who has demonstrated true generosity and friendship over the years.



Marilyn Gelber and Toya Williford of Brooklyn Community Foundation with their Petticoat Award! Photo credit D. Hartley

We're Number One! Twice!

This summer was awards season at SNLP! We are still pinching ourselves at having won two major awards within the span of a few weeks. In June, SNLP won the **GOLD PRIZE** at the 2010 **New York Times Non-profit Management Excellence Awards**, placing first among 89 other non-profits, the culmination of a highly competitive process that began November 2009. Weeks later, we were awarded the **2010 Excellence in Summer Learning Award** from the National Association for Summer Learning for our Summer Institute, one of two national programs highlighted for innovative summer learning with low-come youth.



Staff, Board and Nashers pose with the GOLD PRIZE in June at The Times Center.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Summer Institute

We have just completed our 9th Summer Institute in New York City and our 3rd in Newark, NJ. This award-winning (see above) flagship program continues to demonstrate high impact on participants and recently served as a model program for a new Eileen Fisher Leadership Institute in Westchester this summer! In addition, consider these impressive figures:

- 90 students attended: 50 in NYC and 40 in Newark
- Over 200 students applied for just 70 spots (approximately 20 are returning students as “2nd years”)
- 180 college juniors and seniors from around the country applied for the job of Dean – and we hired only 10! These young women are campus leaders and arrive in NYC to be trained for three weeks and then run the 6-week program.
- 200 professors, teachers, professional artists, and activists applied to be Faculty – again, we hired only 14!
- So it's not surprising we see these kinds of results:
 - 90% of students claim they “feel more confident”
 - 94% say they “have expanded their perception of who leaders can be”
 - 87% agree they “have an increased motivation to fight for social justice”
 - 89% feel they have more options for their future

Here's a brief report on one Nasher's journey through her first Summer Institute:

“When I was applying to the Summer Institute I read that I was expected to work with a community of diverse, young women and that is exactly what happened, in such an educational, enjoyable, and memorable way.

I shared my personal experiences with girls that I didn't know and they did the same, and they accepted me. It was the very first time that I have worked with so many females and I felt so comfortable. I didn't have to worry about what anyone thought of me and I was glad to have that state of mind because it's what I think of myself that matters. My Dean was like the big sister that I never had. When I talked to her, it felt really good. We had so many connections on different levels and that was the same with all of the Nashers. Our talks consisted of fierce, beautiful, and powerful ideas with smiles, laughs and sometimes tears.

I learned about things that I had never heard of. Power, Identity, Privilege (PIP) had such a positive impact on my life and has inspired me to become an educator! And Leadership Seminar strengthened my leadership skills. My creative and academic classes rewarded me with so much knowledge and changed my ignorance about the social construct.

I believe that every young woman should have the chance to be a part of a community like the Sadie Nash Leadership Project because it is an everlasting bond that I am so thankful to have.”



Ahalia enjoys the 1st year Camping Trip at Gateway National Park where Nashers build community and learn about the environment.