

## **University of Washington Dream Project**

### **EDUC 360 – Winter 2011**

**Class Meetings:** Mondays 3:30 - 4:50 PM, GUG 220

**Faculty Advisors:** Stan Chernicoff (sechern@u.washington.edu) and Ed Taylor (edtaylor@u.washington.edu)

**Course Website:** <http://dreamproject.washington.edu/dreamteam/>

#### **Introduction**

The University of Washington Dream Project is a Service Learning Course designed to educate University of Washington students about the issues surrounding educational opportunity and social mobility. The method employed by the Dream Project to further this education is a hands-on, direct-mentoring relationship with high-school students (Dream Scholars). The Dream Project meets as a class on Mondays in Guggenheim Hall 220 from 3:30 to 4:50 PM and as small groups for high-school visits each week.

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#### **Our Mission**

The mission of the University of Washington Dream Project is to assist low-income and first-generation high school students in attaining higher education and to raise awareness among university students about the issues of educational opportunity and social mobility.

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#### **Core Values of the UW Dream Project**

##### **We believe that every student has the right to higher education.**

Poverty, familial background, and access to resources should not preclude any student from accessing higher education. We work closely with our high school Dream Scholars to help them overcome adversities and to achieve the highest level of education in order to reach their dreams. Higher education includes technical colleges, community colleges, four-year colleges and universities.

##### **We believe in the power of education to inspire empathy.**

Through learning about and discussing issues of social inequality and access to education, undergraduate Dream Team mentors develop the communication skills necessary for open dialogue with others from different backgrounds. Through shared experiences and stories, we strive to create stronger relationships with our Dream Scholars knowing that we can learn from them as much as they can learn from us.

##### **We believe in providing vehicles for student leadership and engagement.**

College students become critical thinkers by developing creative solutions to complex problems. Students in the Dream Project run the day-to-day operations of the program and maintain relationships with donors and community partners. Students have real power to bring about change in the organization and the greater community by holding various positions of leadership.

##### **We believe that we are one part of a larger effort and collaboration is critical to our success.**

We see ourselves as serving only one part of the P-20 continuum; therefore, we coordinate our efforts with schools, community organizations, colleges and universities to maximize student achievement. We work closely with administrators, families, and partner programs to tailor our efforts to the needs of the students at each high school.

##### **We believe in the impact of meaningful student-to-student relationships.**

Dream Project mentors, all of whom went through the college admissions process just a few years earlier, develop interpersonal relationships with our Dream Scholars in order to establish trust and to foster long-lasting friendships. We create a "community-in-waiting" for them on the college campus that will support them throughout their higher education experience. Our primary goal: All students – Dream Scholars and Dream Team mentors alike- complete their degrees.

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#### **Core Questions of the UW Dream Project**

The Dream Project strives to address a number of social issues. Many of these will be addressed in class discussions or reading, often with guest speakers, but it is the program's intent that many of these lessons will be addressed more implicitly through interaction with other Dream Project students and with our Dream Scholars. These core questions include the following:

- What are the issues that prevent capable and motivated high school students from pursuing their dreams of higher education?
- How do family attitudes toward education influence student choices?
- What effect does popular anti-intellectualism among some ethnic groups have on student aspirations?
- What role do differing educational values have on student performance and aspirations?
- What role does poverty play in the decisions young students make?

- How important is the fear of failure in the process?
- How does one learn to become an effective teacher and mentor?
- What kind of relationships does a mentor need to develop to be truly effective?
- How does the Admissions process help or hinder access?
- Is there bias in the admissions process, and if so, for or against whom?
- What are the underlying assumptions built into the admission process?

How do class, gender, and cultural background influence the decision-making process?

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### **Expectations of UW Students (the "Dream Team")**

UW Dream Project students are expected to meet the following criteria in order to receive credit for successful completion:

- Attend one of three Dream Project Mentor Workshops (details below)
  - Attend classes regularly and participate in class discussions, exercises, etc.
  - Complete any assigned readings or exercises requested by the professor or by guest speakers and come to class ready to discuss the issues contained therein.
  - Be prepared for high-school visits by learning about the current week's material in class and reviewing it in the Dream Project Student Workbook before meeting with students.
  - Buy an \$8 purple Dream Team t-shirt or a purple Dream Team hoodie/sweater (TBA) to be worn at all high school visits and Dream Project events (t-shirts available in class during weeks 1 and 2 with the Credit/Debit Card reader)
  - Submit a mid-quarter and final reflection paper (details below).
  - Participate in at least one of many Dream Project events throughout the quarter.
  - Complete required background checks and Acknowledge of Risk forms.
  - Be committed to the Dream Project and embrace the two-way nature of the program by allowing UW students to both teach and learn.
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### **Readings & Support Materials**

#### **Dream Project Mentor Course Pack**

Each student in the class is expected to download a course pack for the quarter. These course packs will include readings for the class as well as the course syllabus, schedule, and other important information. They will be available for download on the Dream Project website

#### **Readings**

- Guiding Lights by Eric Liu

\*Guest speakers may occasionally provide supplementary articles and readings. We will make every effort to distribute these via the Dream Team email listserv, on the Dream Team website, or they will be handed out in class ahead of the guest speaker's visit to our class.

#### **Dream Project Student Workbook**

Each student in the class is expected to purchase a Student Workbook for \$16. These are the same workbooks that are provided to high school students and will be referenced each week. They will be available for purchase in class or in the Dream Project Center in Mary Gates 274.

#### **Dream Project Go Post**

If you'd like to share any ideas with your fellow Dream Team members about issues related to our class, other class or career development opportunities, or continue discussions outside of class, please visit the Dream Project *Go Post* at <https://catalyststools.washington.edu/gopost/board/uwdmproj/10573/>.

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### **High School Visits**

Dream Project students meet regularly with Dream Scholars throughout the quarter at their high schools. Students are expected to attend one of these sessions per week.

**During winter quarter, the Dream Scholars will focus on accomplishing the following goals and learning objectives:**

#### **High School Completion**

- \*Reviewing transcripts to ensure Dream Scholars are on track to graduate
- \*Ensuring students have enough community service hours to graduate

#### **Identification and confirmation of Dream Scholar's post-secondary path**

- \*Confirming acceptance to Dream Scholar's school of choice
- \*Create an action plan to ensure easy transition to Dream Scholar's school of choice: orientation date, room and board plan, researching cost of tuition

**Complete their financial aid applications by February 11**

- \* Attend High School FAFSA and Financial Aid Night
- \* Apply for the FAFSA and/or CSS Profile

**Submit applications for THREE scholarships, local or national**

- \* Write competitive scholarship essays
- \* Activities Log
- \* Transcripts
- \* Letters of Recommendation
- \* Attend Scholarship Workshop Weekend

**Maintaining mentorship around life skills**

- \* Resume building

**All high school visits leave from and return to the N-1 parking lot behind the William H. Gates Law Library and the Burke Museum.**

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**Winter 2011 Events**

**Dream Project Mentor Workshops: Jan. 11th, 3:30-6:20 PM (THO 119); Jan. 12th, 5:00-7:00 PM (THO 119); and Jan. 15th, 12:30-2:30 PM (DEN 216)**

For all first-quarter students and returning Dream Team members who did not attend any of the previous Mentor Workshops, there will be a number of mentor workshops during week one of the quarter to help prepare Dream Team members for our work with Dream Scholars during winter quarter. These workshops are designed to help all first-quarter students understand fully the Dream Project's mission and core values and also ask any questions they have regarding the Dream Project and the work we do. More information will be available on the first day of class, January 3rd.

**Gates Millennium Scholarship Workshop: January 8th, 1:00-5:00 PM (Location: Beacon Hill Library)**

The Dream Project will host a special Winter Scholarship Workshop for Dream Scholars to receive help specifically on the Gates Millennium Scholarship. Dream Scholars will have the opportunity to work with Dream Team members and Gates Millennium Scholars on essays and applications. For more information, please email Steven Kwan at [kwanste@u.washington.edu](mailto:kwanste@u.washington.edu) or Lily Ly at [lily214@u.washington.edu](mailto:lily214@u.washington.edu).

**MLK Day of Service: January 17th 9:30-2:00 PM (Location: Cheasty Greenspace in Beacon Hill)**

To accomplish our goal of providing our Dream Scholars with community service hours, the Dream Team and Dream Scholars will be participating in a day of service to give back to the community. This opportunity also provides an outlet for Dream Team mentors and Dream Scholars to bond with each other outside of high school visits. For more information, please contact Nurryyah Ibrahim [nibrahim@u.washington.edu](mailto:nibrahim@u.washington.edu) or Wahidah Niek [wniek@u.washington.edu](mailto:wniek@u.washington.edu)

**High School FAFSA and Financial Aid Nights: January 11th through 26th (Dream Project Partner High Schools)**

During these evening workshops at the high schools, Dream Scholars and their parents will have the opportunity to work with Dream Team members and a representative from the UW Office of Student Financial Aid to complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Each high school will have one FAFSA and Financial Aid Night, but Dream Scholars will be able to work with Dream Team members on their FAFSA during weekly high school visits.

**YouthForce Visit: (Rainier Vista Boys and Girls Club)**

Dream Team members will have the opportunity to partner with high school juniors and seniors in YouthForce's Hawk Squad, a team of student interns who work at Qwest Field during the Seattle Seahawks and Seattle Sounders FC seasons, to work on the college application process. If you have any questions and want more information regarding Hawk Squad visits, please contact Cassandra Berhe-Tyner at [cbpt@u.washington.edu](mailto:cbpt@u.washington.edu).

**Scholarship Workshop Weekend: February 12th 9:00-5:00 PM (Location: Mary Gates Hall)**

The kick-off is designed for our Dream Scholars to research and apply to national and local scholarships. During this one day event, our scholars will have the opportunity to attend information seminars, sign-up for scholarship search websites, and have access to other resources provided by our Dream Team mentors. For more information, please contact Katey Houck [kathleen.e.houck@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.e.houck@gmail.com) or Steven Kwan at [kwanste@u.washington.edu](mailto:kwanste@u.washington.edu)

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**Leadership and Community Building Opportunities (All times subject to change)****Dream Project Dialogue: TBA**

As a student-run program, the Dream Project offers plenty of opportunities for leadership development and innovation. In order to develop more opportunities for Dream Team members to learn about leadership potential, discuss challenging issues, and discuss any new ideas and ways to improve within the Dream Project, we hold a series of dialogues throughout

the quarter. If you have any questions or want to get more involved, please email Olivia Kozyra at [kozyroli@u.washington.edu](mailto:kozyroli@u.washington.edu)

**Chipotle Nights with the Dream Project: Fridays, 5:30 PM, Chipotle on the Ave (43<sup>rd</sup> and University Way)**

Come meet more friends in the Dream Project and enjoy great food at the same time. Continue the Dream Project tradition of eating at Chipotle on Friday evenings. If you have any questions, please email Temneet Sahle [tsahle@u.washington.edu](mailto:tsahle@u.washington.edu).

**DP Study Tables: TBA**

Research has shown that studying with peers yields higher achievement in the classroom and who better to study with than fellow Dream Project students who have taken or are taking the same classes in which you are enrolled. Sign up to help your fellow Dream Teamers study for classes and assist with homework. DP CLUE lists will be available on the Dream Team website later in the quarter. If you have any questions regarding DP CLUE, please email Temneet Sahle at [tsahle@u.washington.edu](mailto:tsahle@u.washington.edu).

**Fundraising Team: TBA**

Funding for the Dream Project is 100% student-raised. If you would like to be a part of the fundraising efforts or have ideas for improving the Dream Project's work, join the DP Fundraising Team to help find funding opportunities for new projects. If you have any questions, please email Ben Overton at [overtb@u.washington.edu](mailto:overtb@u.washington.edu). Specific questions regarding corporations can be directed to Wendy Kim at [wendykim@u.washington.edu](mailto:wendykim@u.washington.edu), and questions regarding donors can be directed to Madhu Panjini at [madhurap@u.washington.edu](mailto:madhurap@u.washington.edu)

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**Attendance and Credit Policies**

**To receive academic credit for the Dream Project, students must be enrolled in EDUC 360 for the Monday class and a high school visit time and meet all expectations of the Dream Team (as listed above), including completion of all readings and assignments as well as visiting high schools and participate in at least ONE Dream Project event.**

Credit is awarded through our faculty advisor, Stan Chernicoff, and is based on attendance in class and at the weekly high school visits. Attendance will be taken in class every week by the leads of each high school group; attendance sheets will be passed out in class. In order to be marked present for each class, students must check in with their high school lead by or at the end of class on Mondays. Students in the "Community" group will check in with their group lead.

Attendance at weekly high school visits is crucial not only to receive credit for the course, but also to work consistently with the Dream Scholars. Each student in the class is expected to attend all high school visits as their schedule permits and check in with their high school lead regularly to maintain weekly attendance. All attendance sheets for the class and high school visits will be submitted to our faculty advisor, Stan Chernicoff, to review for awarding credit for the course. Credit-related issues and other concerns should be directed to the faculty advisor, Stan Chernicoff, at [sechern@u.washington.edu](mailto:sechern@u.washington.edu).

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**Mid-Quarter and Final Reflection Papers**

All students enrolled in the Dream Project are expected to submit two reflection papers during the quarter. The first reflection paper is due on **January 31st**. The final reflection paper is due on the last day of class, **March 7th**. Each reflection paper should be no more than 2 pages (double-spaced, normal font, etc.) and should be enjoyable to read. It does not need to be a heavy academic piece. It should focus on these questions:

- What have you learned so far in the Dream Project/What did you learn this quarter in the Dream Project? What did you accomplish? Were there any revelations? How did you change, and how did you see others change?
- What more do you want to see in the Dream Project? Propose an idea for something that you want to see.

The reflection papers are a chance for you to express your experiences in the Dream Project. Reflection papers will be read by our faculty advisor and will be used as a resource to improve the Dream Project.

Any questions about the reflection papers should be directed toward our faculty advisor, [Stan Chernicoff](mailto:StanChernicoff).

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**Questions or Concerns**

Questions may be directed to [uwdreamproject@u.washington.edu](mailto:uwdreamproject@u.washington.edu). Credit-related issues and other concerns should be directed to the faculty advisor, Stan Chernicoff, at [sechern@u.washington.edu](mailto:sechern@u.washington.edu).