



The NTLP Reporter

A bi-monthly report of the National Teen Leadership Program, Inc., a nonprofit corporation

November, 2001 Issue I

Mission

Our core belief is that empowered, motivated and inspired teen leaders will creatively and positively influence their community. Cultivating and inspiring teens toward civic leadership is of immeasurable benefit to the entire community.

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"Do not limit your dreams to only the things you can see or know to be possible; instead, dare to reach beyond into the world of the unknown, where there is infinite possibility... and from there, choose your destiny."

Victoria Springer,
participant, St. Mary's College, 99 & 00

President's Message, by Laura Wilke

No one has been untouched by the tragic events unfolding in our nation in recent weeks. Yet, we can take some measure of comfort in the heroism we have witnessed and the compassion we have felt for the families in Washington and New York who are experiencing such devastating losses. Additionally, our Alumni have shown strength and support to each other and those in their communities who might be adversely affected by someone's poor judgement.

In an open letter to our alumni (posted on message board as "September 11"), I referenced a conversation I had with an older woman who said she was glad she had led most of her life already; that the good days had gone and the future held only grief and tragedy for the younger generation. I wondered at this, knowing that my parents grew up during the depression, WWII and Pearl Harbor. During my early years I saw the assassination of a popular president and two great leaders -King & the younger Kennedy, the Vietnam War, and the shootings at Kent State. As each tragedy unfolded, great leaders and parents alike feared for their children and the world they had exposed them to.

The point is, that from every tragedy one must learn and grow stronger. Each generation has the ills of society to overcome. Every mother must believe that the future holds a promise of peace and harmony between our nations and each other; that she must raise her child to fight against injustices and to fight for a life we can all be proud of. Moving ahead in fear or not moving at all is the greater tragedy.

Our younger generation will make the world a better place. They will not back down in fear, but rise above any adversity and come out stronger for it. These teens are the leaders of today in the actions they take now and every day of their lives. They are also the leaders of the future in the policies and laws they will enact to ensure safety in our world and fairness and equality for everyone.

Someone wrote this summer and said that NTLP was like a Utopia where everyone was kind and cared for each other. We can make Utopia wherever we are. Every young person I've met through this program is an example of greatness. It is because of them that I know our future generations will come that much closer to achieving a world we all want to raise our children in.

And in response...

Today, I realized that we have to think of opposites. Counteracting evil acts with good and counteracting hate with love. I do not think that going back to our normal lives and simply moving on is good enough, not to mention that it does nothing to honor the lost. For their sake I think we must change by becoming people with a stronger sense of character and more love for those around us. I hope that we will lead and set the example for this country to follow. I hope that we will never forget Sept. 11 and never go back to the lives we had before. This is the beginning to start all over and have this historical moment be recorded as the moment that the people in this country were filled with love and compassion for one and for all. It is our job as leaders to make this change permanent and rebuild this country on a truly united and multicultural foundation. **Jenny Synn, NTLP alumna, 1995**

I finally figured out something important about life a couple of days ago. A lot of people hold too much hate and bitterness and ignorance inside - but a lot more of us hold and give love to the world. This love is intrinsic to the human race: our purpose of existing is to lead and to love and to heal the hurts of the world which we ourselves inflict. No matter how I eventually accomplish this, this is what I'm going to do with my life. Somehow, I am going to make people feel better about themselves and the world, and inspire them to do something to make it a better place for all those who come after. And to accomplish this, we all have to start with love. Love is a general term when applied to the world - it can be a blanket to heal the wounds and comfort the loneliness of humanity.

In a way, attending NTLP at Saint Mary's helped to give me the confidence and courage to discover this....

Fiona Hartley-Kroeger, NTLP Alumna, 2001



Aram Nadjarian and Erica Shead, who met for the 1st time at Scripps NTLP 2001, joined together to sing a beautiful operatic duet, and won the Talent portion of the weekend.

2001 Participant Quote

“[NTLP] is awesome and I'd recommend it to anyone with a desire to be a leader. I've met some of the greatest people here. I've been moved, inspired and motivated by the speakers. I'll never be average. After the diversity workshop, I think I've become a better person, realizing that we're never alone and we should treat each other with respect.”

Benita Sinnarajah, Sehome High, WA

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History & Milestones

The concept for the teen leadership program was first developed in 1989 in the mid-west. In 1992 the California Teen Leadership Program was established under the independent direction of Ms. Laura Henthall (Wilke) and a camp was held to rave reviews in Sacramento, California, with 185 teens attending.

In 1993, CTLP received its certification as a non-profit and expanded to two camps in California. In 1994 and 1995, it was decided to add an additional day to the camps and to expand into Arizona. The first Arizona Camp was held in 1996 and a second Arizona camp was held in 1997. The California camps attracted students from Oregon and Washington as well as California. Also in 1997, the name was changed from California Teen Leadership Program to National Teen Leadership Program to reflect the growth outside of California's boundaries. In 1999 NTLP added Washington to the three existing camps.

Over the last 10 years, NTLP has provided a positive and encouraging camp and follow-on alumni association and activities for over 5,000 teens. By the end of this summer, over \$115,000 in scholarships will have been awarded to deserving young achievers. Several strong community relationships have been forged including partnerships with: Ford Motor Company, the California National Guard, the California State Automobile Association, Farmers Insurance Group, The Boeing Company, The California State Attorney General's Office, Washington State Narcotics Investigators Association, The Texas National Guard and the Oregon State Narcotics Enforcement Agency.

The purpose of *The National Teen Leadership Program* is to cultivate and empower student leaders to learn, internalize and act upon those civil, personal and moral values of outreaching leadership. We accomplish this through professional leadership training, professional motivational speakers, leadership exercises, small group sessions, interactive workshops, interviews with business professionals, talent show and Award Ceremony - all coordinated by NTLP alumni and staff.

Chairman's Report

I've been involved with NTLP for a few years but the first thing I remember realizing is that Laura Wilke's idea's about teens and leadership were revolutionary.

Since the Great Society programs of the 60's, the primary way to help kids who got into trouble was to pour money into programs directed exclusively at them. No one thought much about the successful teens, assuming they would do fine on their own. This assumption aside, what would happen if they were given leadership training to compliment their already emerging values? Wouldn't their impact on their community, also be greater? Might not their enhanced leadership role-modeling have a dramatic effect on kids who were getting into trouble by showing them a better way?

For the past ten years, Laura has been proving that very premise. For that reason, her revolutionary idea of providing leadership training to successful teens, would do far more to help unsuccessful teens than anything else. It is a premise worth supporting.

We have seen a major shift in teen culture during the 90's, from the cynicism and self-destructive behavior of previous decades, to the overwhelmingly positive attitudes and behavior of the Millennial Generation, those born since 1982. There has been a huge downward trend in all crimes and patterns of self-destruction since the early nineties and NTLP, founded in 1992, appears to have played a large role. Over the last 10 years, Laura and NTLP alumni have overseen the leadership training of 5300+ teens, each having an incalculable effect on those around them.

To widen this wonderful work and bring even more teens into leadership roles alongside adults to really help this country requires hard work and strong support.

If ever the passionate idealism of youth has mattered so much to so many it is during the days since September 11th. Idealism, once despairingly called a province of youth one should grow out of, is, as our country is learning anew today, perhaps the staunch of moral clarity and integrity that one should seek to grow into.

NTLP is needed now more than ever. Over the next several months we will be increasing our efforts and will need your support. Your financial help will play a major role in our work. If you are able to contribute to this worthy cause, an envelope has been enclosed for your convenience.

David H. Lukenbill, Chairman
Board of Directors, NTLP



2000 & 2001 Proud Sponsor - In-N-Out Burger handled over 250 hungry teens in less than 1/2 hour



Board Member Profile

Lariselle "Lari" Malagon

Attended NTLP: 1994
Staffed NTLP: '95 -'01
High School: St. Paul.
Santa Fe Springs CA
Graduated: 1999
Board of Directors: NTLP

Attended: Stanford University,
BS Mechanical Engineering 1998
MA Mechanical Engineering 1999
Emphasis in Smart Product Design
Employer: Raytheon Electronic Systems

NTLP Award Winner: Extracurricular Activities

Currently serving on Leadership Team for Raytheon Electronic Systems Hispanic Network (HISNET). Recently selected for Raytheon Engineering Leadership Development Program. Also working with smart card technology.

Future Endeavors: Ph.D and/or MBA; NASA Astronaut Program. Entrepreneurial endeavors.

Hobbies: Stanford Alumni Assoc., SHPE- Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, MAES- Mexican American Engineers and Scientists, Mentoring/ tutoring programs-College Prep., Ballet Folklorico, and of course, NTLP!

"NTLP surpassed my expectations of helping me to become a better leader. I've learned to be more inclusive, tactful, compromising and better able to handle diverse personalities."

Natalie Jay, Oxnard High School, CA

2001 Summer Recap

NTLP had an unprecedented summer, hosting over 750 teens in four programs. Student participation was up 10% (nearly 100 students) from last year. Contributing to our record numbers was our first-annual camp in Austin, Texas with nearly 200 attending. Other programs included Washington, at Pacific Lutheran Univ. (100 students), Scripps College in So. California (200 students) and a record-breaking camp at St. Mary's in No. California with 252 attending.

Better still, was the response from our attendees. Participant Polls reflected 100% positive remarks on the overall program. 19 yr old speaker, "Don't be Average" Joshua Shipp scored the highest response ever received in 10 years with a 93% "Excellent" rating at our Washington program. Workshops had their usual varied responses, with the exception of the Diversity Workshop, which scored the most "Excellent" marks and had the greatest impact of any other.

More than 70 Alumni staff paid their way for the privilege to return to inspire this year's generation,

Supporters of NTLP

Along the way NTLP has forged strong community partnerships with many major corporations, businesses, supportive community leaders and parents. Their support is instrumental to NTLP's success and we are proud to feature many of them here.

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Mark Young

Alumni Assoc. Members & Alumni Contributors with year(s) attended NTLP

Stephen Ashby '94 & '95
Maria Bayog '96
Ann Betts '96 & '97
Nwenna Bowie '94
Carrie Brubaker '97-'99
Mike Bustillos '94 & '95
David Byassee '98
Franco Canet '97 & '98
Eugene Canatol '98
Dane Carlson '00
Cyndie Chang '95 & '96
Howard Cheng '98, '99 '00
Edgar Chen '96
Jorge Chen '93
Abraham Chuang '93
Leian Cimarra '99 & '00
Candace Cooper '97
Levi Considine '96
Sophia Coria '98 & '99
Tre Costello '95 & '96
Alissa Crans '95
Juan Cueva, Jr. '92 & '93
Christie Dickey '92 & '93
Joan Dusch '95
Sarah Ekberg '00 & '01
Maribeth England '96 & '97
Scott Evans '97
Mariah Faris '94 & '95
Brittany Farrell '01
Ryan Ferguson '98 & '99
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Anne Fluor '96 & '97
J.R. Fujita '96
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Rina Gonzales '95
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Jalin Hsu, '94
Yilin Hsu, '94
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Gloria Lee '94 & '95
Juan Lepe '93 & '94
Vanessa Lichtenberger '00 & '01
Jennifer Louie '96
Kim Ludwig '97 & '98
Lari Malagon '94
Tamra Massey '93-'95
Greg Martayan '99
Daniel Medal '97
Jennifer Miller '00
Lauren Miller '97 & '98
Sergio Minero '95 & '96
Jennifer Moranda '92 & '93
Felicitas Nungaray '96 & '97
Jenny Ong '99
Gina Ortega '00
Trisha Ortega '96
Yvette Paradise '99
Rashaan Perry '00
Sarah Petruncola '95
Robert Pipkin '94 & '95
Michelle Prior '97, '98 & '99
Krushawn Pugh '01
Jennifer Redondo '99
Raul Reynon '92 & '93
April Rogers '99
Bob Schmitz '96, '97 & '98
Carrick Sears, '93 & '94
Tony Simon '00
Justin Smith '99
Chad Smith '99 & '00
Sarah Soto '95
Phil Speer '94
Julie Snyder '98
Marjika Stephens '00
Celaxsy Stout '92 & '93
Tabitha D. Stout '96-'98
Keiko Suda, '92 & '93
Robert Sutlovitch '99
Jenny Synn '95 & '96
Heidi Taff '95
Cicely Taylor '96
Michelle Tengco '94
Michael Thantrong '97
Ryan Thoma '92 & '93
Kim Thompson '95-'97
Brett Tourmage '99
Suzanne Tran '94
Michelle Tran '94 & '95
Matt Trinca '95-'97
Stephanie Vassantachart '00 & '01
Nancy Wei '95 & '96
Dustin Westfall '94 & '95
David York '97 & '98
Leeann Yu '99 & '00
William Young '98
Kristien Ziska '98

Visit Association Member Profiles at www.Teenleader.org



Alumni Staff Edgar Chen and Jenn Louie with participant, Hanh Huynh at NTLP, St. Mary's 2001.

again scoring "Excellent" marks from their peers. With only one day of training, Staff facilitate all group discussions and workshops, oversee all activities and perform the role of counselor and friend with expertise and diplomatic aplomb. They are truly the reason our alumni return year after year and take away so much from the program.

We are blessed to have such wonderful sponsors, specifically; The California National Guard, AAA, The Boeing Company, Farmers Insurance and In-N-Out Burger to name a few, plus out of state sponsors, Oregon Narcotics Enforcement Agency and the Texas National Guard. Thank you so much for your much valued support!



John Farrell and Southern California interview participants, Scripps College, 2001

Ineffable!

Ineffable is what John Farrell (above in foreground) called NTLP after participating at the Scripps, 2001 Summer program. "There exist over one hundred thousand words in the English language" writes John, "and of all those characters one stands out as a perfect description of NTLP: ineffable. Originating from the Latin *in-*, meaning "not", and *effabilis*, meaning "utterable," this description simply states that something is incapable of being expressed in words. And rightfully so, for NTLP is an event that an individual has to feel and experience. Once a person does experience NTLP, he or she will be changed, as I have been, forever."

The NTLP Reporter is a bi-monthly (every other month) report generated for the benefit of our alumni members, donors and supporters. NTLP also publishes *"The Leader"*, a tri-annual publication written by and for our NTLP alumni and hosts an interactive web site at www.teenleader.org.

NTLP

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United Way

In light of recent tragic events, donations to United Way have generously soared into the million's of dollars. We support their efforts and encourage you to continue to assist the United Way and other charitable organizations helping those who were victims of this tragedy. We also want to let you know that NTLP is stepping up its efforts to inspire and motivate our teens toward a future we can all be proud of. Earmarking a portion of your deductions to NTLP through United Way helps us accomplish this far-reaching mission. If you would like to help NTLP through your deduction to the United Way, please use our **Tax ID # to ensure proper credit: 94-3199765 during open enrollment.**

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Please support the National Teen Leadership Program! Your donation supports our growth, expansion and year-round efforts to inspire thousands of deserving teens to develop their leadership skills and contribute to their communities.

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