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SKIDMORE STRENGTHENS COLLABORATION WITH SPONSOR-A-SCHOLAR

Saratoga Sponsor-A-Scholar Juniors Travel to Skidmore for a Series of Campus Visits

(SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY) - Saratoga Sponsor-A-Scholar juniors will join students from Capital Region Sponsor-A-Scholar and Ballston Spa Sponsor-A-Scholar on Saturday, Nov. 7, for a visit to the Skidmore campus. The visit, which will include an overview of the college, a tour, and a meeting with Skidmore students, is the first in a series that will culminate in an overnight on campus in the summer of 2010.

"Skidmore College is excited to collaborate with Sponsor-A-Scholar to offer this series of campus visits designed to support Sponsor-A-Scholar's efforts to increase academic engagement, encourage the pursuit higher education, and create a culture of college in the scholars' lives," said Kate Dudley-Perry, the Skidmore Opportunity Program counselor who is coordinating the visits.

Saratoga Sponsor-A-Scholar Executive Director Jim LaVigne applauded Saratoga Sponsor-A-Scholar's ongoing relationship with Skidmore. "We are very grateful to be part of this expanded program," said LaVigne. "Last year, our scholars were fortunate enough to visit the Skidmore campus twice, once for a tour and discussion and once for a study skills workshop." In addition, last spring members of the Skidmore e-hockey team tutored the Saratoga Sponsor-A-Scholar students in several subjects.

The series of campus visits for all the groups of Sponsor-A-Scholar juniors will occur over the course of the academic year and tentatively will include opportunities for the junior scholars to meet with current Skidmore students serving as access and achievement ambassadors during question-and-answer panels. Scholars will have a chance to attend classes with Skidmore student ambassadors and experience a day in the life of a college student. Sponsor-A-Scholar students will also be invited to attend presentations by Skidmore staff on topics including financial aid, the college admissions process, and opportunity programs. In order to simulate the college experience, Skidmore will also host the scholars at "Camp Skidmore" for an overnight summer visit, at which time the scholars will attend seminars designed for them and taught by Skidmore professors, enjoy a campus event, and learn more about preparing for college.

Saratoga Sponsor-A-Scholar is a federally recognized, not-for-profit human services agency established to help economically disadvantaged young men and women at Saratoga Springs [High School](#) complete high school and graduate from college. The program provides tutoring and academic support, college preparation activities, and mentoring and financial support during college. For more information on Saratoga Sponsor-A-Scholar, call Jim LaVigne, Acting Executive Director, at 518-587-2472, e-mail saratogasponsorascholar@yahoo.com or visit www.saratogasponsorascholar.org.

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