

North Lawndale College Prep H.S.

Alumni Profile



Whitney Smith '06



(1)What university do you attend?

Carlton College in Northfield, Minnesota

<http://www.carleton.edu>



(2)What degree will you earn?

I will earn a Bachelor in International Relations Political Science with a concentration in Africa American Studies

(3)What impact did NLCP have on your life?

I think that NLCP had a tremendous impact on my life in the way that the teachers and the administration were able to work together to create a family atmosphere. For some kids, this was all the family they had. Administrators and teachers at NLCP worked tirelessly to instill in us that we were a unit, all operating toward the same goal (graduation from high school and college). It was as if once inside the wall of NLCP we were held to higher expectations and in higher regard; we were allowed to express ourselves as kids, individuals, but also as budding intellectuals, civil servants, scientists etc. In short, NLCP taught me the importance of creating an atmosphere/environment of love and learning, as well as providing me with an education and curriculum dedicated to teaching the fundamentals.

(4)What specifically can you say about your NLCP experience?

The thing I most often say of my NLCP experience is that I am grateful to it for the exposure it provided. Through the programs NLCP offered, I was able to visit different places and encounter different cultures, people, and life styles. I benefited each year from my participation in the Phoenix Rising program so much so that I have remained in contact with many of the people I met—including the people that I met while studying at Harvard University. My participation in Mikva Challenge was also instrumental to me.

(5)Was NLCP essential to your success (yes or no)? Yes

(6)If yes – why and how?

I would say that NLCP was very instrumental in my success because during my time there the people I met and the knowledge I gained not only helped me develop academically but personally as well-- which is the test of a truly outstanding school. It was also during my time at NLCP that I learned and internalized the importance of being accountable for my actions and destiny. This is something that remains very important to me and instrumental in the way I live my life.