

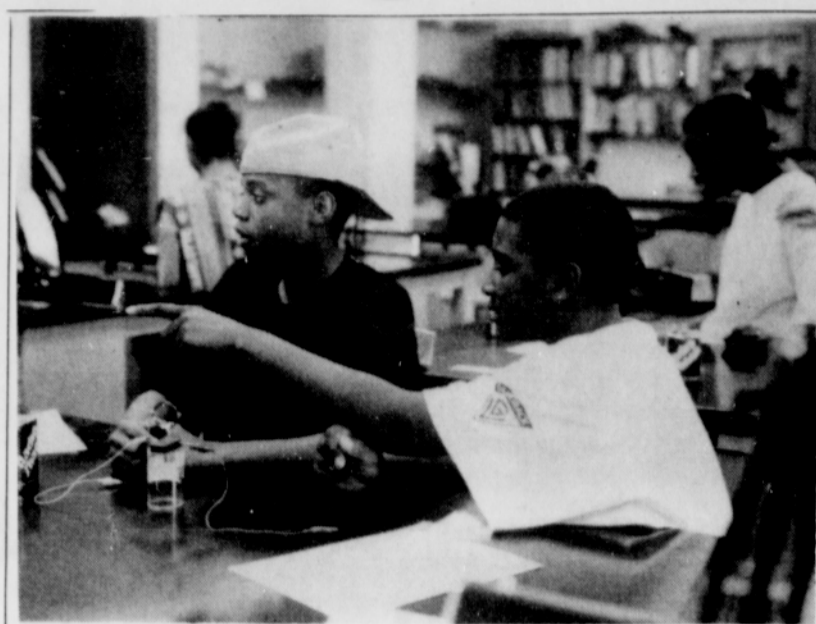
Portland 'Dreamers' To Attend Whitman College In July



Laurie Adams, a Whitman student, helps an "I Have A Dream" student, with a papiermache monster in art class



Whitman student Laurie Adams in art class



Science class



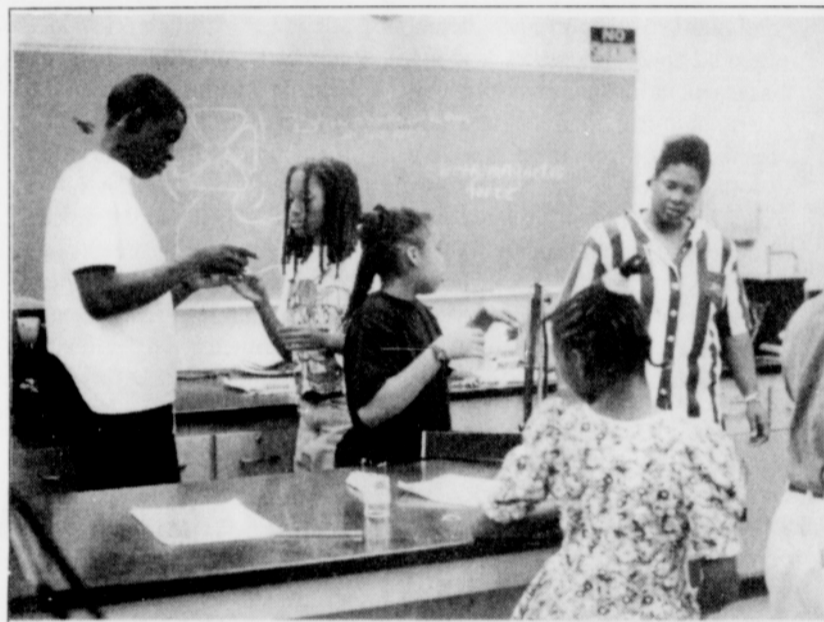
Laurie Adams, Whitman student assists in art class



Brian Detman, a Whitman student and head counselor for Whitman's "I Have A Dream" last summer, helps with registration



Science class



Monny Hawkins (left), a Whitman student, and Melanie Ramsey, a Portland teacher, in science class



Whitman student Dan Nguyen-Tan discusses an art project with "I Have A Dream" students



Whitman student Monny Hawkins helps with a science experiment

With help from the Meyer Memorial Trust and one of the leading liberal arts colleges in the Northwest, 50 middle school students from north Portland will get a head start this summer in fulfilling their dreams of someday going away to college.

The Meyer Memorial Trust of Portland recently awarded a \$120,000 grant to Whitman College for a two-year pilot project designed to provide an on-campus summer educational experience for students enrolled in the Portland "I Have A Dream" (IHAD) program.

Representatives of Whitman and the IHAD Foundation in Portland announced their new partnership Monday, May 31, at the start of an orientation meeting for participating students and their families. The evening meeting took place in the cafeteria of Jefferson High School, Portland.

Fifty students from six Portland schools will spend from one week to three weeks on the Whitman campus in July. Students will live in campus residence halls, take classes in language arts, science, mathematics and fine arts, and participate in a variety of field trips and recreational experiences.

Whitman faculty members and teachers from the Portland public schools will teach the classes, and Whitman students will serve as counselors in the residence halls. At least two IHAD classroom coordinators plan to accompany their Portland students to Whitman.

Officials at both Whitman and Portland's IHAD Foundation are hopeful the pilot project will develop into an ongoing, long-term partnership, and that the summer residential program will eventually serve as a model for similar collaborative efforts between colleges and IHAD foundations around the country.

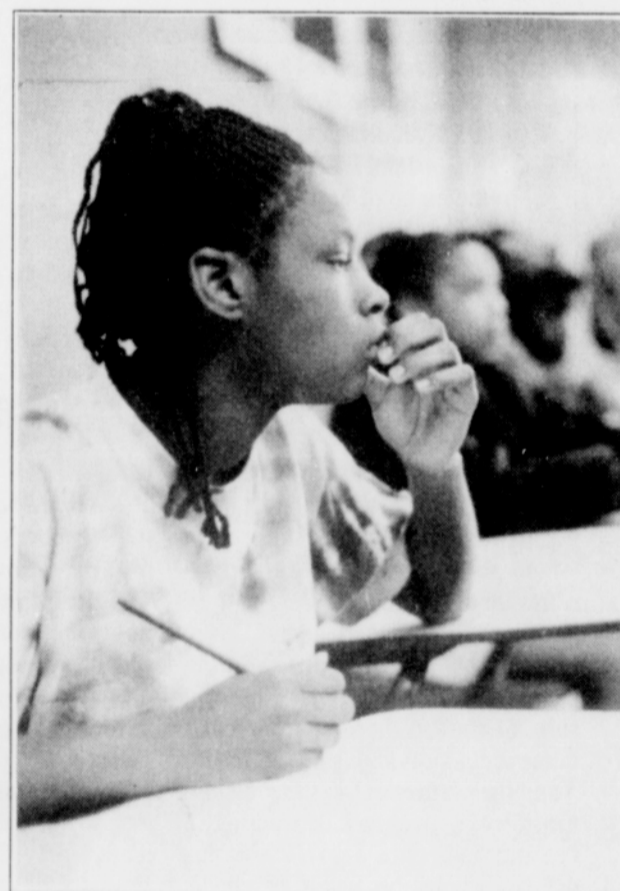
Gloria Gostnell, a program officer for Meyer Memorial Trust in Portland, said the new partnerships is attractive because it takes a long-term



Phil Hopson, an "I Have A Dream" classroom coordinator, helps one of his students in art class



Whitman professor David May helps in science class



Language arts class

approach to impacting the lives of children in positive ways, and because the partners are highly committed to the project and highly qualified to run it.

"I think what interests us about the program is that it is a collaborative effort between the IHAD program and sponsors, a public school system, and a very fine private institution," Gostnell said. "We are very happy to see the number of private institutions," that are developing a stake in and commitment to the education of low-income minority students."

David E. Maxwell, an active proponent of multicultural campus diversity during his four years as president of Whitman, said the college community is enthused about its new partnership with Portland's IHAD Foundation, an organization dedicated to encouraging and supporting young, economically-disadvantaged minority students in their pursuit of

higher education. "When I first came to Whitman, we looked at ways of improving the college's position on issues of minority enrollment, and we recognized very early that it didn't make much sense for us to compete with every other college and university in the country that is trying to attract students of color," Maxwell said.

"We looked at long-term needs of society and the long-term goals of the college, and it was very clear the real issue was developing productive and creative approaches to enlarging the relatively small number of minority students who continue into higher education. Within that context, we viewed the "I Have A Dream" program in Portland as speaking directly to the issue as we phrased it, and we began to look for ways in which we could add dimensions of experience and expertise to their efforts and increase the chances for success among their

students." Brian Gabbard, associate director of admission at Whitman and the project coordinator, describes the summer program as one of emotional and academic enrichment for the students. "Many of these young people will be first-generation college students, and we want them to become familiar and comfortable with a college setting," Gabbard said. "We want to bring down the psychological barriers, and while that is very important, we also want this to be a rigorous academic program. We want to help develop their intellectual curiosity and aspirations as well as their confidence in their ability to satisfy those aspirations."

Encouraged by several of its Portland-area alumni, Whitman began working with Portland's IHAD Foundation two years ago on possible partnership programs. As the planning effort became more focused, 25 middle school students from Portland spent a

weekend on the Whitman campus last summer. Some of those students will return to Whitman this summer.

"A number of the students who came last summer sent wonderful thank you notes," Maxwell said. "The most consistent theme was 'I'll be back.' Many of them said, 'We had a wonderful time...it was very interesting...we really liked the people...and we can't wait to come back.'"

"Phil Hopson, one of the IHAD project coordinators, told me his students ask him every day about coming back to Whitman," Gabbard said. "Every day. The interest created from that one weekend was phenomenal."

This summer, approximately half of the 50 students coming to Whitman are finishing the sixth grade. They will spend one week, July 5-11, on campus. The other half is completing the seventh grade and will stay on camps for three

weeks, July 12 through Aug. 1. Most of the participating students are from Tubman Middle School. Students also are coming from Whitaker Middle School and Fernwood Middle School, among others.

Eugene M. Lang, founder and president of the national IHAD Foundation, visited Portland's program last year and served recently as commencement speaker at Whitman's May 23 graduation ceremonies.

Lang received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree during Whitman's commencement ceremonies. In addition, retired Portland school superintendent Matthew Prophet, who serves as honorary chairman of Portland's IHAD Foundation, received an honorary doctor of education degree, as did Janine Pease-Windy Boy, founding president of Little Big Horn College.