

## **Operation Jump Start Student In Long Beach Awarded The Posse Foundation Scholarship**

***Brittany King-Pleas, a twelfth-grader at Millikan High School is the first Operation Jump Start (OJS) student to be awarded The Posse Foundation Scholarship which secures her full tuition for her undergraduate work at Kalamazoo University in Michigan.***

Long Beach, CA January 15, 2009 – Brittany King-Pleas is the first Operation Jump Start student to receive the prestigious Posse Foundation Scholarship to attend Kalamazoo in Michigan.

The Posse Foundation identifies recruits and trains student leaders from public high schools to form multicultural teams called “Posses.” These teams are then prepared, through an intensive eight-month Pre-Collegiate Training Program, for enrollment at top-tier universities nationwide to pursue their academics and to help promote cross-cultural communication on campus.

Brittany King-Pleas, a mentee of five years with her mentor Jasmine Comfort were matched through Operation Jump Start (OJS), a mentoring organization in Long Beach. King-Pleas was offered admission to the Kalamazoo College Class of 2013 with a full paid undergraduate tuition provided through the Posse Foundation. Being the first in her family to attend college, Brittany is looking forward to her future endeavors.

With a referral from Operation Jump Start, Brittany was put through rigorous interviewing sessions against 1,300 other remarkable candidates. Of those 1300 students fifty of the top leaders were chosen to attend five different colleges, Tulane University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Grinnell College, Kalamazoo College, and Dickinson College, with only ten students accepted into each institution.

According to Eric P. Staab, Dean of Admission at Kalamazoo College, Brittany possesses, “the character and qualities necessary to benefit from the rigorous and stimulating life at our College (Kalamazoo)”. Brittany chose Kalamazoo because of their emphasis on community service and giving back, their study abroad opportunities and its smaller student to teacher ratio.

For additional information on the news about Brittany King-Pleas’ Posse Foundation Scholarship or about Operation Jump Start, contact Dara Cerwonka or visit [www.operationjumpstart.org](http://www.operationjumpstart.org).

About Operation Jump Start:

Operation Jump Start works with students who attend school in the Long Beach Unified School District and are the first in their families to attend college. A volunteer mentor commits to a five-year relationship with a student and provides support to the student, both academically and in life. In addition to one-on-one mentoring, Operation Jump Start helps maximize the potential of these promising students by providing enrichment programs such as educational workshops and college tours, as well as providing free supportive services, such as counseling, scholarship opportunities and academic tutoring.

Contact:

Dara Cerwonka, Executive Director  
Operation Jump Start  
562-988-2131  
<http://www.operationjumpstart.org>

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