



GOVERNOR'S HONORS ACADEMY

AT SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

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Changing the world*

for 27 YEARS



Sponsorship
Packet

GOVERNOR'S HONORS ACADEMY

AT SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

351 West University Blvd Cedar City Utah, 84720 gha@suu.edu 435.586.7741

April 3, 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

As a leader in your community, we invite you to assist this talented student who has been appointed to the twenty seventh annual Governor's Honors Academy, hosted at Southern Utah University, June 19, 2015 through June 27, 2015.

The Academy is for Utah's finest high school students who demonstrate excellence in academics, leadership, extracurricular activities, personal achievement, and community service. It is prestigious to have a student from your community as a participant, since a mere 50 appointments are made each year.

As we assist the Honorable Governor Gary Herbert in this endeavor, it is our objective to offer an intense nine-day program to emphasize excellence and achievement. The leadership development each participant receives will assist your community when the student returns to become a contributor in your area.

We believe you can be a valuable support to this student by providing a sponsorship which will bring the best of Utah's community and corporate leaders together with the Governor's Office and Southern Utah University in presenting the 2015 Governor's Honors Academy.

Enclosed is information explaining the purpose and objectives of the Academy as well as comments from past participants. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions at (435) 586-7741. Thank you for your consideration of this matter. By sponsoring a student from your community, you are helping to establish an unparalleled level of excellence in Utah's future.

Sincerely,



Jared Wilcken
Academy Director



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Program Summary

The Governor's Honors Academy is a prestigious program designed to seek out Utah's most gifted high school leaders and scholars entering the twelfth grade. The Academy was conceived by D. Mark Barton with Governor Norman H. Bangerter and former Southern Utah University President Gerald R. Sherratt and is currently endorsed by the Honorable Governor Gary Herbert. The objective of the program is to cultivate the brightest and the best of Utah's high school students in high quality leadership, personal achievement, academics, and community service, "to nurture the life of the mind." This experience helps the participants understand and realize the future potential of our state and develops a high level of excellence in our state's next generation of leaders.

The nine-day program provides students a stimulating curriculum of study. Subjects range from science to Shakespeare and from creativity to leadership. These and other subjects are presented by dynamic Academy faculty members as well as many distinguished lecturers with corporate, government, media and other professional backgrounds. The student participants have the opportunity to interact with these professionals on a level that would not exist without the Governor's Honors Academy.

The Academy recognizes the quality and caliber of Utah's most valuable resource, its students. Fifty students are selected as participants in this prestigious learning experience from Utah high schools ranging in size and location. These students demonstrate excellence in academics, leadership, community service, extra-curricular activities and personal achievement.

The Academy is designed to allow participants an opportunity to create and implement ideas and objectives. Throughout the program, each student will develop personal objectives during small group sessions where they can gain valuable insight from group leaders and fellow participants, as well as draw from the diverse background and expertise of faculty and distinguished guest speakers during large group settings.

Higher education is a necessary experience for these bright students. While attending the Governor's Honors Academy, many opportunities to learn about the campus environment and academic disciplines offered on a collegiate campus will be experienced at Southern Utah University. Academy participants interact with faculty from across the state, allowing them to discover the collegiate excitement found in higher education.

During the Academy, all participants will learn as they live and socialize with other students from around the state and engage in discussions with distinguished leaders in business, politics and academics from across the nation. The atmosphere is one of excitement with an accent on excellence, an experience that motivates the body and expands the scope of the mind.

GHA Profile

- Participants Each Summer: 50
- Number of Applicants: 150-200
- Average GPA of 2015 GHA: 3.94
- Average ACT of 2015 GHA: 25
- Number of Schools Represented in 2014: 45
- Requirements to Apply: 3.65 GPA
- University Credits Earned: 6



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Need for the Academy

We are all concerned about the future state of the nation. We can no longer survive on traditional methods of achievement. The Academy will instill within its participants an ability to perceive early the changing dynamics of the global economy and the technological advances of the 21st century. Young leaders need to be prepared to take advantage of these new opportunities. The concept of the Governor's Honors Academy brings the brightest young leaders at the high school level into a setting where the common purpose is excellence.

The concept of excellence begins with one's inner motivation and desire to achieve. Assuming this basic concept exists in those students selected to attend the Academy, an intense program of study including seminars on leadership and group dynamics, association with role models who exemplify excellence, and academic development will nurture the expanding minds of the students, thus allowing them the ability to achieve the highest planes of personal excellence, leadership, and motivation in today's unique economic environment.

Program Mission, Objectives and Activities

The mission of The Governor's Honors Academy is to motivate, illuminate, and feed the talents of each individual at GHA. We desire to help each person set goals, embrace dreams, and realize that their boundaries are limitless. By recognizing diversity, we will build lasting friendships that inspire us to be better people and work harder for success. We will go home with more enthusiasm, more endurance, and a larger passion for our lives and the lives we come to know. Thus, nurturing the life of the mind.

Students attending the Governor's Honors Academy will:

- ✦ Obtain a broader vision of personal potential for leadership.
- ✦ Learn & understand the value perspective can bring and how it enhances society.
- ✦ Develop a keener ability to create, then implement new ideas.
- ✦ Learn fresh approaches and new skills in group dynamics.
- ✦ Acquire an increased awareness of personal goals and objectives.
- ✦ Improve understanding of contemporary trends and global problems in order to deal with them.

Students attending the Academy receive the following for \$1,000:

- Six University credits (tuition and fees valued at over \$1,913) – upon completion of the Academy
- Nine days lodging (valued at \$250)
- Nine days food (valued at \$250)
- A Tony Award Winning Utah Shakespearean Festival Play (valued at \$40)
- Entrance into various National Monuments and National Parks (valued at \$50)
- Transportation during the Academy (valued at \$150)
- Governor's Honors Academy supplies (valued at \$65)
- Over two dozen speakers from around the State of Utah and nation (valued at over \$3000)
- A 4 year full-tuition scholarship to Southern Utah University (valued at over \$24,000) – upon completion of the Academy.



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Benefits of Sponsoring the Governor's Honors Academy

As a community sponsor for the 2015 Governor's Honors Academy, your organization will receive increased recognition as a civic support leader in education through your contribution to this student's development.

Sponsors can donate any amount of money! If you donate within one of the following three levels you have the option of receiving the associated benefits.

Commissioner - \$100-\$249 [Tax deduction, GHA recognition brochure]

Lt. Governor - \$250-\$499 [Tax deduction, GHA Thank you card, Name recognition on GHA website]

Governor - \$500+ [Tax deduction, GHA appreciation card, Name & Logo on GHA website]

*Any donations below \$99 will not receive any of the above benefits, but are greatly appreciated.

Through your sponsorship of a high school student from your local area, we invite you to take ownership of the Governor's Honors Academy and see the leadership qualities exhibited by these elite participants. We are confident these students will be Utah's next generation of leaders, highly visible in business, politics, and also productive members of communities like yours.

Program Curriculum

1. Educational Focus

The Governor's Honors Academy is focused on providing quality educational opportunities to each participant. To ensure quality and consistency the academy strives to bring exceptionally qualified speakers in each of the following areas:

- Humanities (three speakers)
- Sciences (two speakers)
- Business (two speakers)
- Motivation (three speakers)
- Education (two speakers)
- Arts (two speakers)

2. Increase Perspective

Providing students with an understanding of perspective and how being open to different perspectives allows them to relate with and work better with others is a key component to the Governor's Honors Academy. Students will read the book "The Noticer" by Andy Andrews prior to attending the Academy and then will participate in the Perspective Series. The Perspective series helps students understand key components of society from different perspectives. Over the past three years, since its introduction to the Academy, the following topics have been covered: religion, political parties, gun control, immigration, and the Affordable Care Act.



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3. Promotes Individual Leadership

The Governor's Honors Academy is focused on leadership. Leaders from all facets of our society will be presented in the program. Students will have multiple opportunities to learn and exhibit leadership skills.

4. Promotes Lifelong Learning

Following participation in the summer program, students are inducted into the Governor's Honors Academy Society which furthers development, opportunities, and learning throughout a lifetime.

By providing these benefits on an individual basis, the Academy recognizes the quality and caliber of Utah's most valuable resource, its young leaders. Only 50 students are selected as participants in this prestigious learning experience each summer. Throughout the nine-day program, each student will develop personally during small group sessions, gaining valuable insight from fellow students. They will also draw from the diverse background and experience of Academy faculty and guest presenters during large group settings.

Governor's Honors Academy Past Participant Comments

I loved being surrounded by the most remarkable people that I have ever had the opportunity to meet. You earn more than a scholarship, you gain lifelong friends and lessons that will positively impact your life. It is an amazing experience that I would give anything to go through again. -Eric O.

GHA was the best decision I made before college. It has made all the difference when I was deciding where I wanted to go to college. I made friends that are going to be lifelong. I found out more about myself and the person I wanted to be. I would recommend GHA to anyone because being surrounded by the best makes you want to be even better. If you want a better tomorrow apply to GHA today. I would make the decision to attend GHA 10 times over again. I believe I am where I am today because of this program. - MaKenzie M.

"I never knew what people meant when they said they had an experience that changed their perspective until I went to GHA." It really was an amazing experience that made me look at things in a new way, and I would not have had that change without everyone that I met while I was at GHA. - Jordan M.

The Governor's Honors Academy is unlike anything I've ever experienced or heard of before. In preparation for college, participants are given knowledge, experiences, perspective, and friendships that have already made huge impacts in my life. I went in with few expectations, and each day, as I began to develop some, they were surpassed with great magnitude. The counselors and directors spend endless time and energy creating something beautiful for students who may eventually attend SUU as well as students they may never see again. I laughed, I cried, I learned... I had the time of my life. -Rachel K.

I grew as a person in a way that changed me forever! GHA really opened my eyes to the possibilities that I could make my life become, and not a day that goes by that I don't think about the amazing experience I had there! If you have the opportunity to go and have this amazing, lifechanging experience, I suggest you take it!" - Valarie C.

*In 1992, a GHA Participant named Jeremy Peterson wrote a song while attending the Academy. In the chorus of that song he used the words, "We can change the world if we try". Now, 23 years later that song has been sung at each and every GHA. Participants of the Academy will argue that GHA has changed their life and the Academy would argue that these participants have indeed changed the world.