
A reflection on the impact of the Carson Scholars Program

A deeper look into the
outcomes and successes of
the program

Carson Scholars Fund
December 2015

CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Goals of the Carson Scholars Program.....	2
The Carson Scholars Fund is meeting its goals.	3
School Spotlight – Southampton Middle	5
Areas of Impact	5
Carson Scholars Recognition Program	6
Alumni	8
College Enrollment.....	8
Degrees Received.....	9
STEM-related	9
Comparison of College Graduation Rates	11
Community Involvement	11
Carson Scholars Hall of Fame – Top 20 under thirty.....	13
Conclusion.....	14

Introduction

This report tells the story of the Carson Scholars Fund and its impact. Written by the Carson Scholar Fund, it uses a combination of: 1) evaluation research data collected and analyzed by Formative Evaluation Research Associates (FERA) an independent evaluation group; and 2) data collected by the Carson Scholars Fund. This report takes a deeper look into how the Carson Scholars Fund is meeting its goals, the effectiveness of the Carson Scholars Recognition Program, and the outcomes and successes of the program shown through the CSF alumni.

History of the Carson Scholars Fund

The Carson Scholars Fund, Inc. was founded in 1994 to address the education crisis in the United States. When retired world-renowned Johns Hopkins Pediatric Neurosurgeon Benjamin S. Carson, M.D. and his wife, Candy, read a research study about education in the United States, they were alarmed by the findings. The study showed that our nation's students ranked #21 out of 22 countries; next to the bottom of the list in science and math. Furthermore, the Carsons observed that many school display cases were filled with large trophies paying tribute to their sports teams' achievements, while honor students only received a pin or certificate.

Dr. and Mrs. Carson felt compelled to take action. They believed that if children could be taught early to excel, they would stay motivated and have a higher chance of educational success later in life. The Carson Scholars Fund was built on these principles.

Carson Scholars Program

In 1996, the first Carson Scholarships were awarded. Students in grades 4-11 who exemplify academic excellence and humanitarian qualities are nominated by their school. Winners, designated as a Carson Scholar, receive a \$1,000 scholarship to be invested toward their college education, a recognition package including a medal and trophy for their school, and an invitation to attend a regional awards banquet. Carson Scholars become role models and leaders at their schools. Carson Scholars are encouraged to reapply annually and renew their status through the Previous Scholar Recognition Program.

Ben Carson Reading Project

In his autobiography, *Gifted Hands*, Dr. Carson wrote about how his life was changed once he embraced reading. As the Carson Scholars Fund grew, the Carsons established a second program – The Ben Carson Reading Project. This initiative, which started in 2000, provides funding and support to schools to build and maintain Ben Carson Reading Rooms – warm, inviting rooms where kids can escape into the world of books. Each room is colorfully decorated and promotes Dr. Carson's "THINK BIG" philosophy and fosters an encouraging attitude towards learning.

Goals of the Carson Scholars Program

The Carson Scholars Program is more than a simple monetary scholarship program. It starts early, encouraging a college-going culture in schools and homes across the country.

1. **Carson Scholars are recognized by their school.** As part of the Carson Scholars Program, schools are provided with a trophy to be proudly displayed in display cases. The aim is to add value to academic achievements and to refocus the spotlight on education; too often athletic achievements are recognized more than academic success. Carson Scholars are honored for their academics and motivated to continue to strive for excellence. They have incentive to excel academically year after year.
2. More importantly, **Carson Scholars are role models in their schools.** They encourage their peers to succeed academically and contribute to their communities. The impact of the program goes beyond individual students and families to schools and classrooms. Carson Scholars encourage other students in their school to strive for excellence and serve as peer role models. The scholarship program is available to students in grades 4-11. These students have sufficient time to be recognized by their educators and peers, and to have the intended impact on their schools. Collectively, they are shaping a better future for themselves, their schools and communities, and the country.

The Carson Scholars Fund is meeting its goals.

What makes the Carson Scholars Fund unique from other scholarship and leadership programs is that recipients are elementary, middle, and high school students instead of the typical, college-aged student. Also unique about the program is that in order to apply, a student must first be nominated by their school.

With school involvement throughout the application process and eligibility of young students, the Carson Scholars Fund finds that significant recognition of the academic and leadership activities of scholars contribute to the college-going culture in schools. In addition to the \$1,000 college scholarship, first-time scholars are invited to attend a regional awards banquet, receive a medal and have their names added to a trophy displayed in their school.

The findings from the principals' survey¹ indicate that the extent to which recognition and leadership activities occur at the school levels varies widely. Fully 64% of responding principals said that they recognize Carson Scholars at a one-time event. One quarter hold a series of events, and 11% engage in a range of activities such as providing press releases to local newspapers, post announcements on school social media and websites, and sponsor dinners. Schools also celebrate Carson Scholars in the following ways: (N= 555)

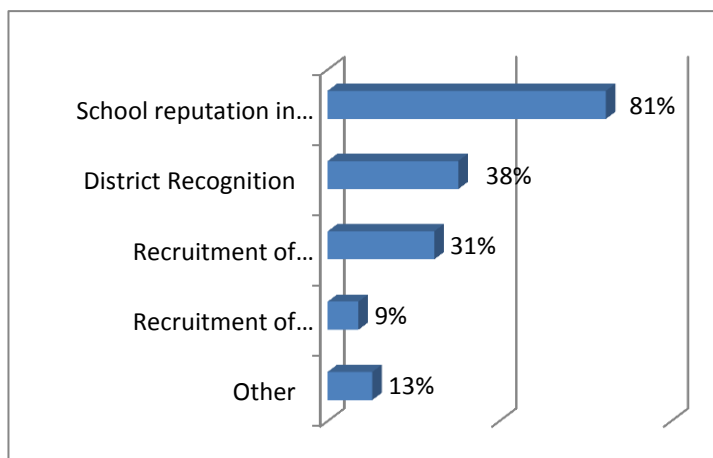
<u>65%</u>	School wide announcement over the PA system
<u>65%</u>	Trophy prominently displayed (324 schools)
<u>26%</u>	School wide assembly
<u>9%</u>	Classroom activity
<u>8%</u>	Showing the video about Ben Carson's Life
<u>8%</u>	Having students read one of Ben Carson's books
<u>7%</u>	School wide activity
<u>5%</u>	Student speech

¹ FERA (June 2014) *Carson Scholars Survey for Principals & Administrators Data Summary & Verbatim Responses*

One third (31%) of the principals mentioned other very specific ways to recognize their Carson Scholars, including taking students to see the Ben Carson play, highlighting the student's award in their newsletter, submitting a press release to the local newspaper, hosting a dinner or a classroom party with family and community members, and conducting grade-level discussions with 5th graders.

Almost all the principals surveyed (91%) noted that one positive outcome of having a Carson Scholar at their school is that it enhances their school's reputation. Over a third of the principals noted that having a Carson Scholar at their school enhances district recognition, and almost a third indicated that it has a positive effect on student recruitment.

Figure 1: Being a Carson Scholar School Has Positive Effects



What Principals are saying

Principals were asked an open-ended question about how having a Carson Scholar contributes to the college-going culture in their school. Their responses can be grouped into the following themes. The Carson Scholars Program:

- Raises awareness about and interest in going to college (n=75)
- Instills a vision and hope for attending college (n=50)
- Provides resources to pay for college (n=49)
- Promotes academic success (n=48)
- Increases Scholars' motivation and confidence (n=31)
- Provides an opportunity to celebrate student achievement (n=23)
- Aligns with the mission of school – to prepare students for college (n=21)
- Promotes community engagement (n=10)

Principal Testimony

In addition to affirming school goals and the hard work of the Carson Scholar, having an honoree at the school level reinforces the merits of curricular expectations and rigor for the entire school community.

Having a Carson Scholar in our school is something we include in our marketing materials under "points of pride." Students currently in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades keep asking how they can become a Carson Scholar. The opportunity/possibility of receiving this honor truly seems to have the power to stimulate students in striving for academic excellence.

It really helps other students to strive toward being recognized for their efforts at the school because now we have role models for achieving recognition for doing great work at school. It also gives the recipients a chance to become stronger leaders while they focus on their dreams and goals.

It is important for the student body as a whole (to) see that some students are recognized for academic excellence by a variety of organizations.

The Ben Carson Scholar is respected by the school community. This respect encourages other students to attempt to improve their academic standing.

It acts as a motivator for behavior characteristics as well as academic and extra-curricular honors to qualify as a candidate within the school. Our candidates are selected by a committee of faculty members who consider all of the above when casting their vote for submission each year. Students recognize that candidates who have won at our school in the past are exceptional young boys and girls, and to be considered for the Carson Scholarship, they must meet the criterion.

- Has limited impact beyond the individual scholar (n=9)
- Promotes leadership (n= 4)

School Spotlight – Southampton Middle²

In 1999, Southampton Middle School attended Dr. Carson’s THINK BIG presentation at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. At the end of the presentation students presented Dr. Carson with a check for the Johns Hopkins Children’s Center. While educator Judy Fida-King didn’t realize it yet, this would become the start of the Carson Scholars Program at Southampton Middle School.

After the THINK BIG presentation, Judy was contacted and thanked by Audrey Jones, Dr. Carson’s office manager, for the donation. Judy and Audrey’s relationship grew when it was discovered that Judy’s husband had developed a brain tumor. During one of their conversations, Audrey mentioned the Carson Scholars Fund and suggested Judy attend a volunteer meeting. After the meeting and learning about CSF, Judy was an ambassador of the program. She continued to take students to the THINK BIG presentations and began the scholarship program at her school. Judy regularly organizes fundraisers at her school to fund a Carson Scholar every year.

As leader of the nomination process, Judy has created an environment that motivates students to excel academically and be role models as they covet the recognition associated with being a Carson Scholar. All students at Southampton Middle who met the 3.75 GPA criteria are eligible to apply for nomination. They complete an essay, provide details about their community service and reflect on what it means to be a Carson Scholar. Retired educators score the students applications and select which students are nominated and can submit an official application.

The excitement comes in the spring when students find out who was selected as a Carson Scholar. While the Carson Scholar is recognized at the CSF awards banquet, Southampton Middle also makes sure the student receives special recognition at the school level. Each Carson Scholar (current and previous) is recognized on the morning announcements. Students have their picture taken in the schools Ben Carson Reading Room where it’s placed in the school yearbook. The students also have their picture taken with the principal and are presented with another certificate of accomplishment. Carson Scholars are featured on the Harford County Public Schools website and in the local newspaper. Scholars are congratulated by their classmates as well as the faculty and staff.

As of today, Southampton Middle School proudly has the most Carson Scholars in Harford County Public Schools.

Areas of Impact

Educators realize the value in having the Carson Scholars Program at their school. While the Carson Scholars Program has scholars in all 50 states and Washington, DC, there are geographic areas of impact. In these areas, there is strong school participation in the program.

² Fida-King, Judy. (September 2015). Personal Interview.

- Fully 100% of Pittsburgh public schools have or have had a Carson Scholar
- 63% of all Maryland public schools have or have had a Carson Scholar
- Nearly 100% of Baltimore City public schools have or have had a Carson Scholar
- 83% of Lee County public schools have or have had a Carson Scholar

While the Carson Scholars Fund awards scholarships strictly on academic achievement and humanitarian qualities without regards to financial need, ethnicity, creed or religion, CSF is making an impact in areas of economic need. The table below shows geographic areas that have a concentration of Carson Scholars and the percentage of schools in these areas with Title I Funding.

Figure 2: Title I Funding in Areas with Carson Scholars

Area	Title I Funding	Concentration of Carson Scholars
Lee County Public Schools	51% ³	5% (n=323)
Pittsburgh Public Schools	88% ⁴	6% (n=418)
Baltimore City Public Schools	74% ⁵	22% (n=1,464)
Battle Creek Public Schools	45% ⁶	5% (n=330)

The strongest area of impact, Baltimore City Public Schools, with the highest concentration of Carson Scholars receives significant Title I funding. Carson scholarships are awarded strictly on merit. Because of the nature and goals of the program, the Carson Scholars Program is contributing to a college going culture in underserved areas.

Carson Scholars Recognition Program

The Carson Scholars Fund believes that students should continually be recognized for their accomplishments and in 2009 introduced the Carson Scholars Recognition Program. This program allows students to reaffirm their status as a Carson Scholar year after year provided they maintain the high academic standards.

There are over 2,000 Carson Scholars who have been recognized multiple times.⁷ 20% of these scholars have been recognized an impressive five or more times. This includes two scholars who have been recognized nine times – every year since winning in 4th grade!

³ Lee County Public Schools (October 2015) *Title 1 Schools* <http://www.leeschools.net/title-1-schools>

⁴ Daffern, Amy (November 2015) List of Title 1 schools provided by PPS Title Program

⁵ Baltimore City Public Schools (October 2015) *All Title 1 Schools 2015 -2016*

http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/cms/lib/MD01001351/Centricity/Domain/8814/Title%20I%20Schools_15_16.pdf

⁶ State of Michigan (October 2015) *2015 Title I Regional Assistance Grants to ISDs-Priority Schools*

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Amended_April_24_2014_-_2014_RAG_Eligible_Schools_455162_7.pdf

⁷ This number includes scholars who won the \$1000 scholarship multiple times before 2009.

Figure 3: Recognition Data by Area

Area	Percentage of multi-time Scholars
Lee County Public Schools	41% (134 out of 323)
Pittsburgh Public Schools	59% (208 out of 352)
Total Scholars	35% (2,095 out of 6,047 ⁸)



Steven Isett – Steven was first named a Carson Scholar in 2007 as a 5th grade student. He continued to meet the high standards of a Carson Scholar and was recognized an additional five times. He has spent time interning at Johns Hopkins Department of Biological Chemistry, as well as the Carson Scholars Fund. Steven enjoys playing basketball, the cello and the guitar. He is studying biology and biotechnology at Tufts University.



Ellen Leibowitz – Ellen first received Carson Scholar recognition as a 5th grade student and was recognized every year through middle and high school. She is in a very elite category of Carson Scholars as an eight-time scholar. She interned with the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority as part of the Pittsburgh Pipeline Program, which encourages career exploration related to infrastructure development. Ellen enjoys playing the flute and her involvement with the Girl Scouts. She is studying to become a mechanical engineer at Georgia Institute of Technology.

Every year, the Carson Scholars Fund recognizes hundreds of students for continuing to meet the high standards of a Carson Scholar. Thanks to the generosity of the Richard Lumsden Foundation, the CSF will begin a pilot program in 2016 to recognize these students who have year after year demonstrated their commitment to academic excellence and humanitarianism.

Upon graduating high school, Carson Scholars who receive recognition six or more times⁹ will receive an additional \$1,000 award. This pilot program will begin with Carson Scholars who are graduating in 2016 and is currently slated to be available to those scholars meeting the requirements and graduating in 2017 and 2018. The additional \$1,000 award will be held to the same restrictions¹⁰ as the original award.

What Carson Scholars are saying...

I've had younger kids come to me asking for help and they say they look up to me. That means so much to me...to know that I'm looked up to.

Being a Carson Scholar has helped me to look beyond my own feelings and interests and concentrate on the successes and needs of others. It has taught me that no knowledge is ever wasted and has helped me view every situation as a learning experience that may benefit my future even if it seems unlikely at the time.

The academic recognition at an early age - in middle school for me - helped me see how my commitment to school was already "paying" off and was admirable.

⁸ This is the number of scholars, there have been 6,757 scholarships awarded but some students won the scholarship more than once prior to 2009.

⁹ A six- time Carson Scholar has won the Carson Scholarship and was recognized five times in subsequent years. It is not required that the scholar be recognized in consecutive years.

¹⁰ Payouts can be used towards academic expenses at a four-year college or university within the United States in which the student is enrolled full-time in a bachelor-degree-track program.

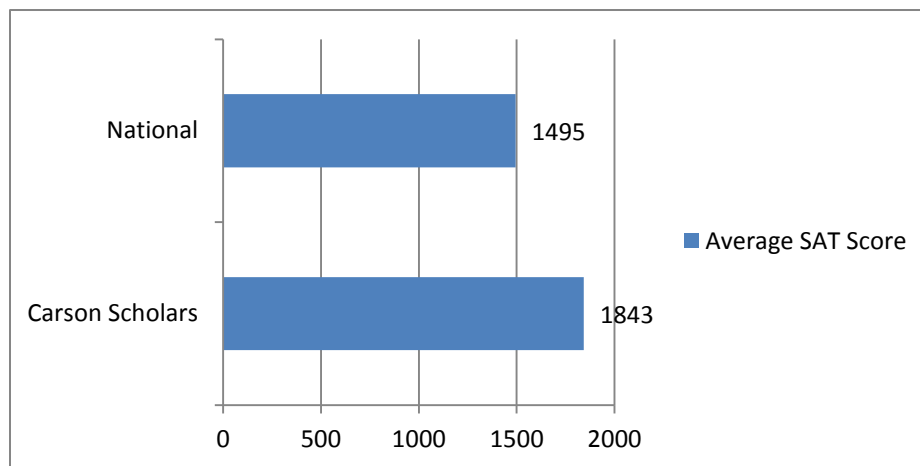
Alumni

Carson Scholars become alumni once they graduate from high school. The Carson Scholars Fund has an alumni network of over 3,600 scholars.

College Enrollment

- 93% of Carson Scholars graduate from high school and attend college.
- While Carson Scholar alumni are selected on the basis of merit criteria, 40% obtain need-based scholarships from other sources. Carson Scholars who attend college received:¹¹
 - Merit-based scholarships 56% (n = 1,175)
 - Need-based scholarships 40% (n=834)
 - Non-academic financial aid 6% (n=130)
- SAT Scores
 - The SAT Benchmark score of 1550¹² (critical reading, mathematics and writing sections combined) indicates a 65 percent likelihood of achieving a B- average or higher during the first year of college
 - The average SAT score for all students in 2012-2015 graduating classes nationally is 1495¹³
 - The average SAT score of our scholars (based on payout survey data for the last four academic calendars) is 1843

Figure 4: A Comparison of National and Carson Scholar Average SAT Scores



¹¹ Based on optional payout survey data collected from scholarship payouts from fall 2011 to fall 2015, Carson Scholars receive other types of aid

¹² CollegeBoard (October 2015) *The SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmark*
http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/sat/12b_6661_SAT_Benchmarks_PR_120914.pdf

¹³ Class of 2015 average SAT score: 1490 out of 2400 (<http://theweek.com/speedreads/575408/class-2015s-sat-scores-are-lowest-decade>)

Class of 2014 average SAT score: 1497 out of 2400 (https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/sat-scores-for-class-of-2014-show-no-improvement-from-previous-marks/2014/10/06/80beb554-4d5b-11e4-aa5e-7153e466a02d_story.html)

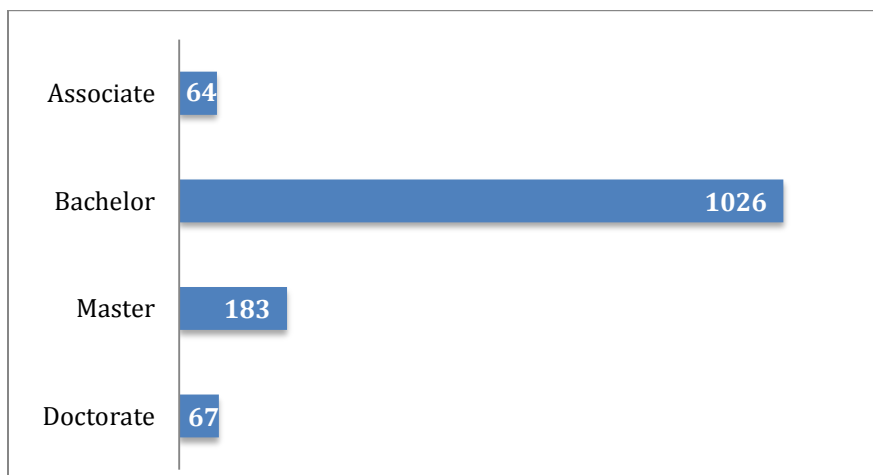
Class of 2013 average SAT score: 1498 out of 2400 (<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2013-09-26/sat-scores-of-class-of-2013-unchanged-from-year-earlier>)

Class of 2012 average SAT score: 1498 out of 2400 (http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/25/education/slight-dip-in-sat-scores-for-the-class-of-2012.html?_r=0)

Degrees Received

- Carson Scholar alumni are successful students. Carson Scholar alumni earned 1,026 Bachelor's degrees and 250 graduate degrees (see Figure 5). Some students were awarded more than one degree.

Figure 5 – Degrees Obtained by Carson Scholar Alumni Who Enrolled in College N=1,285 alumni¹⁴ (1997-2014)



- Carson Scholars are in every discipline and field in college and graduate school.
- Carson Scholar alumni, although young, are already in leadership roles in education, nonprofit, and for-profit sectors.
- About one-third of those who graduate from college continue on to complete a master's or other advanced degree (Ph.D., MD, JD). Carson Scholars were awarded:
 - 183 – Master's degrees (6 students received two masters)
 - 23 – Juris Doctors
 - 31 – Doctors of medicine, pharmacy, audiology, dental surgery, dental medicine, physical therapy, chiropractic, and veterinary medicine.
 - 13 – Ph.D.'s in applied math, chemistry, history, materials sciences, education, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, physics, organizational leadership, mass communication, and romance languages.

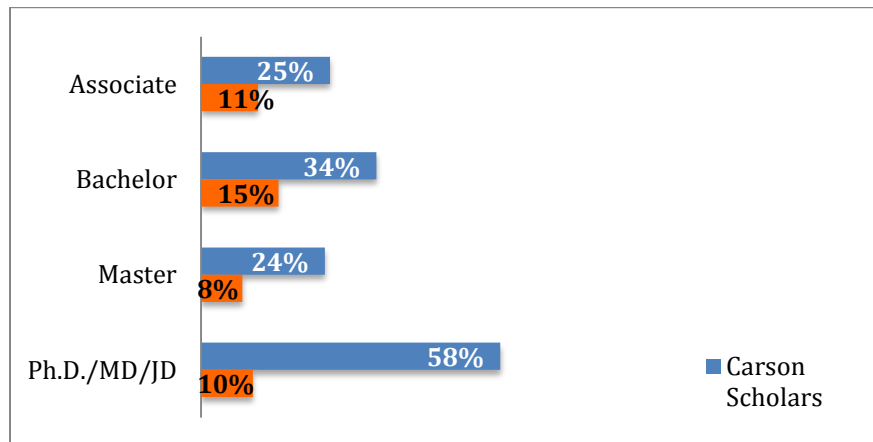
STEM-related

- Carson Scholar alumni earning college level degrees in STEM-related subjects is double or more than national rates (see Figure 6).
 - While involvement in STEM-related subjects or activities is not a criterion for being selected as a Carson Scholar, alumni are obtaining degrees in STEM-related fields. Examples of STEM-related majors are: aerospace engineering, animal sciences, biochemistry, biology, chemical engineering, chemistry, civil engineering, computer science, electrical engineering, environmental science, exercise science, information

¹⁴ Some alumni received more than one degree (5 obtained more than 1 Associates degree and 44 more than one Bachelors).

science, mathematics, mechanical engineering, medical coding, molecular biology, neuroscience, nursing, pharmaceutical sciences, and physics.

Figure 6 – Percent of STEM-Related Degrees Obtained by Carson Scholar Alumni as Compared to College Graduates Nationally¹⁵



- Carson Scholar Alumni are outperforming the national average in individual earnings according to a 2011 survey¹⁶
 - \$50,964 - CSF Alumni
 - \$37,400 Overall National Average *estimated for adults 25-34
 - Average with:
 - BA - \$45,000
 - Associates degree - \$37,000
 - HS or GED - \$29,900
 - no HS - \$21,000
- Students studying a STEM-related field have a higher salary than other majors after graduation¹⁷
 - **STEM major (overall) — \$65,000**
 - Computer and information sciences — \$72,600
 - Engineering and engineering technology — \$73,700
 - Biological and physical sciences, science technology, mathematics, and agricultural sciences — \$50,400
 - **Non-STEM majors (overall) — \$49,500**
 - General studies — \$53,700
 - Social sciences — \$46,700
 - Humanities — \$43,100
 - Health care fields — \$58,900
 - Business — \$55,500

¹⁵ Note that the U.S. percentage is for 2010 only. Carson Scholar Alumni percentages are cumulative from 1997 to 2014, and may be different for the 2010 academic year. To arrive at the national percentages of STEM degrees we took the number of stem degrees from https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d14/tables/dt14_318.45.asp, subtracted nonresidents and then divided by the total number of degrees from the table found at: <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=72>.

¹⁶ Carson Scholars Fund Alumni Survey 2011, Data Summary and Verbatim Responses

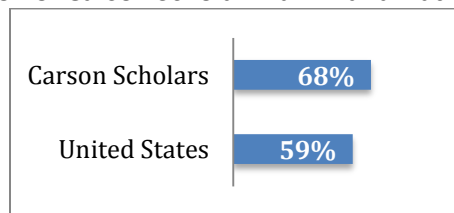
¹⁷ <http://www.businessinsider.com/stem-majors-earn-a-lot-more-money-after-graduation-2014-7>

- Education —\$40,500

Comparison of College Graduation Rates

- Carson Scholar alumni college completion rate is 9% higher than national rates (see Figure 7).
 - FERA conducted an analysis of a smaller group of Carson Scholar Alumni to assess graduation rates and to compare these to national rates. The analysis included students who would have completed high school in the spring of 2009 and have had at least six years to graduate from college. Overall, of those 997 students, 687 (68%) received a bachelor's degree. The most recent national comparison is for students who completed high school in the spring of 2007. Of these students, 59% received a bachelor's degree by 2013.

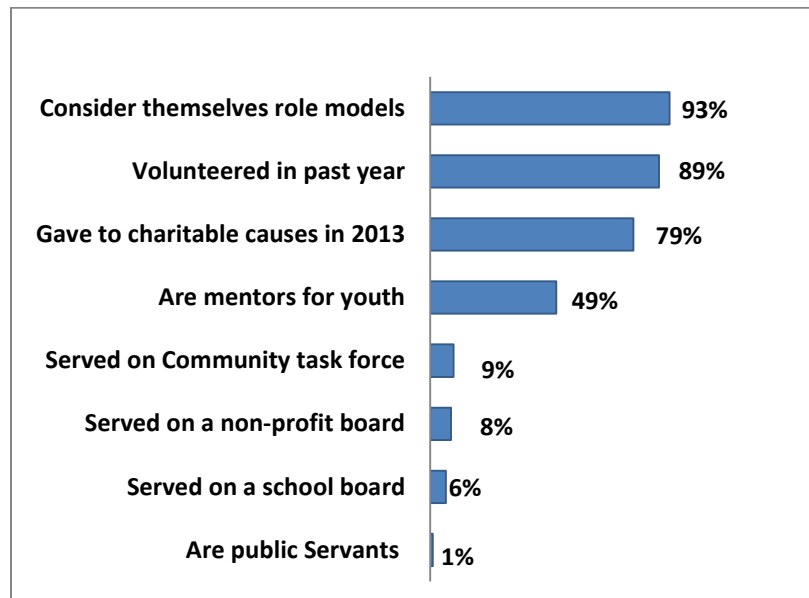
Figure 7 – A Comparison of Carson Scholar Alumni and National College Graduation Rates¹⁸



Community Involvement

- Alumni report giving back in many different ways.

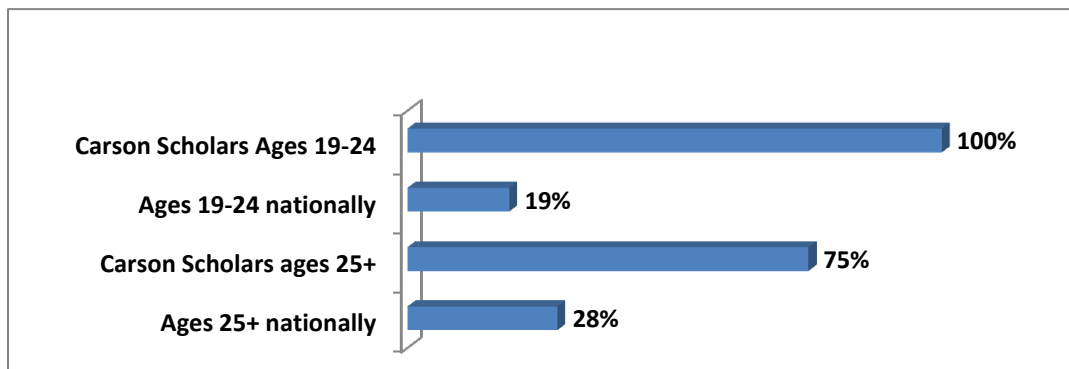
Figure 8: Ways Alumni Give Back



¹⁸ U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=40> Note that the U.S. percentage is for 2013 only. Carson Scholar Alumni percentages are cumulative from 1997 to 2014, and may be different for the 2013 academic year.

- Carson Scholar alumni serve as leaders in their schools, workplaces, and communities. **During the past twelve months alumni have served in leadership roles in their:**¹⁹
 - 57% School (e.g., held an office in student government, PTA, club, fraternity/sorority)
 - 43% Community
 - 36% Job
 - 2% Religious organization
 - 3% Other places
- Fully 100% of the alumni respondents ages 19 to 24 report that they serve as volunteers. Seventy-five percent of those ages 25+ volunteer. Volunteers reported over the past month 43% volunteered up to ten hours of their time. Higher numbers of volunteer hours in the past month were also reported: 11-20 hours (10%); 21-30 hours (5%); 31-50 hours (3%), 51-100 hours (2%) and > 100 hours (2%).
 - FERA compared the percentage of Carson Scholar alumni volunteering to national level statistics for similar age cohort.²⁰

Figure 9: Carson Scholar Alumni Volunteer Rates as Compared to National Rates



- Five times more Carson Scholar alumni ages 19-24 volunteer than do their peers nationally (100% as compared to 19%).
- Although most (83%) of the alumni are still in school and presumably have little, if any, disposable income, 79% of them personally gave money to charitable causes in 2013. Respondents identified the range dollars they gave to charity. Most amounts were small - from \$1-\$50 (43% of alumni). The next highest range was from \$51 to \$100 (16%) followed by \$101 to \$200 (9%), and \$201-\$500 (5%). Five percent of alumni gave over \$500.
- Carson Scholar alumni are interested in continuing to be engaged in a range of ways in support of younger Carson Scholars. Nearly half (44%) offered to serve as a mentor to current Carson Scholars who are going to (or thinking of going to) their college. Other ways they want to offer support include having their own story/accomplishments spotlighted by the Fund to inspire

¹⁹ Respondents could select more than one. The percentages add up to more than 100% because they are calculated based on the total N of 1,128 respondents. Carson Scholar Fund Initiatives Key Findings from a National-Level Evaluation, November 2014.

²⁰ National Volunteering Rate by Age Group www.civicyouth.org As the actual national rate of youth “volunteering” is controversial, because definitions of the term vary and each survey produces different levels this finding should be interpreted with caution.

younger scholars (41%), volunteering at Carson Fund events (28%), creating a Carson Scholar Chapter (5%), and becoming a donor to the Fund (5%).

Carson Scholars Hall of Fame – Top 20 under thirty

To celebrate their 20th anniversary of awarding scholarships and to spotlight the accomplishments alumni have made, the Carson Scholars Fund introduced the CSF Hall of Fame in 2016. Featured in the Hall of Fame are twenty Carson Scholar alumni who are under the age of 30.



Sreya Atluri – two-time Carson Scholar, Centreville, VA

Born in India, Sreya immigrated to the United States at the age of two. Every summer she would go back to India to visit with family and friends. During her visits she looked forward to playing with her friend Durga and comparing notes on what they were learning in school. One summer, at the age of sixteen, Sreya learned that her friend Durga could no longer afford to attend school.

This experience was the spark that inspired Sreya to found Creating Awareness in Research and Education (CARE), a nonprofit with a mission of distributing educational resources in underprivileged communities. CARE has supplied 3,000 dictionaries and textbooks to schools and community centers, offers six merit-based scholarships covering tuition, room and board, and all associated expenses, and hosts mentoring, vocational training, and computer literacy workshops in India. They've sponsored classroom and art supplies for students and teachers in the Dominican Republic, and have organized winter jacket programs in Washington, DC Sreya is incorporating her dedication to STEM and is currently expanding to launch student-oriented STEM activity kits worldwide.



Michael Kochis – three-time Carson Scholar, Coraopolis, PA

Michael credits receiving the Carson Scholarship in the 10th grade as the external validation he needed to realize that there were networks and opportunities available to him beyond Pittsburgh, PA. He attended Princeton University where he experienced a whole new set of opportunities for growth. Throughout his undergraduate studies, he worked in a research lab in Ghana, went scuba diving around coral reefs in Bermuda, and even got to have lunches with world-famous writers on campus. Michael was also a volunteer EMT throughout undergrad. He is now on his way of fulfilling his dream to become a

doctor as a student at Harvard Medical School.



Kylie Lan Tumiatti –two-time Carson Scholar, West Melbourne, FL

Kylie Lan's journey has inspired her incredible passion for giving back. Discarded as a preemie newborn on the step of a home for the elderly, Kylie Lan was found and brought to an orphanage where she was recovering from multiple illnesses including frostbite and a missing toe. She was adopted and brought to America where she was in and out of the hospital for skin grafts and plastic surgery treatments.

Kylie Lan's adopted sister only spoke Chinese and was struggling in school. She recognized the importance of reading and partnered with Operation Hope. Kylie Lan received a grant from Operation Hope to help teach children of migrant workers English. She began creating activities that made stories come to life using props, costumes, food, and live performances. She began recording stories that children could listen to and learn from. Kylie Lan's project grew and she received national and international recognition. She continues to work with Operation Hope and has expanded her service projects to New Jersey, where she attends Seton Hall University.

While still focused on solving illiteracy, Kylie Lan has also started a new project, We Are Family, that educates people about adoption and works to instill confidence in adopted children to stand up to bullying.

Conclusion

Since first awarding scholarships in 1996, the goal of the Carson Scholars Fund has always been to have a Carson Scholar in every school in the United States. While this is an ambitious goal, the Carson Scholars Fund is proud of its progress.

