



Back in 1999, when personal computers had become so popular that some people considered them a necessity, I noticed that the students who couldn't afford them

were at a serious disadvantage. They didn't have the same technological capabilities as their peers and would always be a step behind.

We created the Westchester Scholars program to provide these promising students the most current technology to get ahead in school and bridge the digital divide. All students deserve a chance to do well – and they will be motivated as long as they have the tools needed to keep up.

In an effort to level the playing field, the Westchester Scholars program provides students who meet income guidelines with a new computer and the appropriate training.

Our hope is that these youngsters will use their new skills to become even more competitive when it comes to seeking out college scholarships. The county's Jandon Scholars program – which awards up to \$10,000 in college scholarships over four years – is just one possibility we encourage them to pursue.

More than 400 students have become Westchester Scholars and many have gone on to receive college scholarships. With all the excitement this program has generated, I'm only expecting more success stories.

Andrew J. Spano
Westchester County Executive



FOR MORE INFORMATION
contact Tiffany Lattimer at the
Westchester County Youth Bureau at
(914)995-8608

Computer training will be provided by the Educational Opportunity Center of Westchester, Monroe College and Westchester Community College.

Westchester Scholars are also encouraged to seek college scholarships through a sister program, Jandon Scholars, which awards up to \$10,000 over four years of college.

Westchester County wants to contact YOU in an emergency
Give us your e-mail and/or cell phone number, and sign up at
www.westchestergov.com/cens

Westchester Scholars

Providing free computers and educational programs to eligible youth



What is Westchester Scholars?

Westchester Scholars is a program to provide computers and educational enrichment to promising students grades 7 through 11 from low-income families. It is a public/private partnership between Westchester County and the Generoso-Pope Foundation. The program is administered by the Westchester County Youth Bureau with additional funding from the Department of Social Services.

Who can apply to Westchester Scholars?

Any student in grades 7 through 11 with a "C" or better grade-point average, no unexcused absences or cuts, and community service/work experience is eligible. Applicants must be receiving temporary assistance through TANF.

What does a Westchester Scholar receive?

- A new Dell desktop personal computer
- A printer
- Microsoft software
- One year of free Internet service
- One week of computer camp at a college in Westchester
- Transportation to the camp
- Educational activities throughout the year.

How do they learn to use their new computer?

Participants must attend computer camp for one week tentatively scheduled at the end of June. They learn how to set up their computer and use Microsoft programs (Excel, Power Point, Word, Front Page).

Special trips and events too!

There will also be optional events for Westchester Scholars throughout the year. Past activities have included trips to an indoor rock climbing center, Sony Wonder Lab and the Museum of Natural History. Some of the scholars were involved in the "Why We Read Summer Project" and "Learning Ambassadors" in partnership with the Westchester Library System. There will also be opportunities to learn about different career paths, visit colleges and do community service.

How to apply

Applications are available in November and must be filed by February 27. Students must submit their grades and attendance records for the first marking period of the current school year and from the last marking period of the previous year. A recommendation letter is also required from a guidance counselor, teacher or someone in the community that the student has worked with. A letter from a community service organization is preferred.

Students receiving temporary assistance during the month of November should receive an application in the mail. Applications are also available by calling (914)995-8608 or by going to www.westchestergov.com/youth.

