



Rainier Scholars Welcomes New Associate Executive Director

February 23, 2017

SEATTLE, Wash. – Monica R. Parker joins Rainier Scholars as the new Associate Executive Director. An African-American woman, Parker has special expertise in professional & leadership development, design & implementation of strategic initiatives, adult learning and executive coaching.

Parker brings over 15 years of experience working with nonprofits, law firms, corporations, educational institutions and government agencies in the U.S. and overseas. As the top candidate from a national search process and highly competitive pool of applicants, she earned unanimous endorsement from the organization's hiring committee with full support of the leadership team and Board.



“I am delighted to join an organization that has such a deep and meaningful impact on the lives of children of color, their families and our communities,” said Parker. “What touched my heart is the energy and talent of the scholars as they go through this incredible 12-year-journey to create lives of leadership, impact and fulfillment. I am honored to support the talented and passionate leadership team at Rainier Scholars in our mission to help level the playing field for underrepresented students of color.”

Parker, a graduate of Savannah Country Day School in Savannah, GA, earned a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a B.A., *cum laude*, from Harvard College. A former practicing lawyer, she served as a Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School teaching communication and negotiation and was also a member of the teaching team for the Harvard Negotiation Institute. Prior to joining Rainier Scholars, Parker was the Senior Manager of Professional Development & Training at Davis Wright Tremaine, an international law firm.

“We are thrilled to have Monica join our team,” said Sarah Smith, Executive Director. “She brings an incredible range of skills and expertise to the position. Monica is a collaborative leader with a strong commitment to creating greater access and opportunity for low-income students of color. She

appreciates first-hand the value of a high-quality education and is deeply committed to our mission of making this pathway possible for our scholars as well.”

Parker is also the author of two books, *What It Takes: How Women of Color Can Thrive Within the Practice of Law* (The American Bar Association) and *The Unhappy Lawyer: A Roadmap to Finding Meaningful Work Outside of the Law* (Sourcebooks).

Rainier Scholars

Rainier Scholars cultivates the academic potential and leadership skills of hard-working, low-income students of color. By creating access to transformative educational opportunities and providing comprehensive support, we increase college graduation rates and empower new generations of leaders. Rainier Scholars’ rigorous academic program aims to serve students with the greatest barriers to a college education - and who will be the first in their family to graduate from college.

For more information, contact Kim Davis, Communications Manager, kadavis@rainierscholars.org (206) 422-5602.

For more information, visit www.rainierscholars.org.

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