



# The Power of One

One student's energy and passion opens the door of possibility for others.

BY JOYCE MCCALLISTER

Ty-Licia Hooker '12 is just trying to keep up with herself. Among other activities, she is a Student Ambassador and former president of the Black Student Union and served on the Provost Selection Committee. She talks very fast and has big ideas and big plans to follow through on those ideas. She is determined to hold Pacific to its four-year guarantee, carrying 16 units each semester. She has things to do, places to be, people to meet.

A junior in Pacific's Community Involvement Program, Hooker gained a certain legendary status when she and a friend from high school began the Success Summer Academy last June. Hooker and Michael Tubbs, now a junior at

Stanford University, are both graduates of Stockton high schools. They were concerned about high school students like them who come from tough neighborhoods or difficult family situations and may not see college as a possibility.

Hooker was a 4.0 student at Stockton's Cesar Chavez High School, determined to be successful but not really considering college. One day Tubbs stopped to tell her that Harvard University had just posted its application process.

"I wondered what he was talking about," she says, and she told him she had no intention of applying to college. "He just said that our friendship was over, because I was throwing away my talent."

The comment was just what she needed. Hooker applied to 20 colleges and was accepted at 19. She chose Pacific.

"I felt that Pacific cared about me as a whole person," she says.

"Ty-Licia is the model of the committed student," says political science professor Bob Benedetti, director of the Jacoby Center for Public Service and Civic Leadership. "I am particularly impressed with her ability to network; she knows how to get very different people to work together."

That quality served Hooker well in making Success Summer Academy a reality. She secured financial support from Admission, the School of Education and Student Life, and worked with faculty and

staff in those departments to organize the program. Hooker and Tubbs recruited other college students, including program director Raymond Zulueta '11, to help mentor the high school students.

Every Wednesday and Saturday for six weeks, nearly 30 Stockton teens came to Pacific to experience college life. They ate at the DeRosa University Center, exercised in Baun Fitness Center, learned about financial aid and applying to college, and experienced real college courses.

At the beginning, Hooker asked the students how many wanted to attend college. Only two raised their hands. As the program progressed, new possibilities began to emerge. Near the end of the

program she asked again. All the hands shot up.

“SSA has opened my eyes,” says Lincoln High School graduate Elijah Nevarez, 18. Now a psychology student at Delta College, Nevarez continues, “It showed me I could do better than I was doing.”

Amanda Estep, 17, a senior at an alternative high school, says what she learned through her time at SSA last summer “has shown me that even though the odds are stacked against me, I can still do it if I put my mind to it and just take little steps at a time.” She wants to teach mathematics and has applied to Pacific. This spring, Estep received a leadership award and served as an intern for Families and Fathers of San Joaquin.

“I think the thing that I missed out on was having somebody young who looked like me tell me this was an option,” Hooker told reporter Roger Phillips of *The Record* (Stockton) last summer. Hooker also founded STORM (Students Striving Together and Overcoming with Resilience and Motivation), a mentor group of Pacific students to help underrepresented teens reach their full potential. Through STORM and SSA, she is extending that help to other young people like her.

Hooker’s ideas for the academy have received support and excitement from Pacific faculty and administration. With some shifts to emphasize

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— Ty-Licia Hooker '12

leadership development and community action, Success Summer Leadership Academy continues this summer as a one-week residential program with 50 students. Long term, Hooker hopes to expand the program to other colleges and universities.

A political science major with minors in education policy and ethnic studies, Hooker spent the fall 2010 semester in Washington, D.C. She took classes at American University and interned for the Children’s Defense Fund. There she helped plan the Youth Advocacy Leadership Training (YALT) for the country’s leaders in child advocacy and community issues.

“During the YALT conference, I met other youth leaders who are just as on fire about issues in their community as I am,” Hooker says. Guest speakers included political figures, members of the media and political activists.

“The speakers who had the most impact were the average citizens: prison guards, police officers, individuals from the homeless shelter,” Hooker says. “This was by far one of the best experiences I’ve ever had; it impacted my life and my

future beyond what I could have thought.”

Hooker says she has a love-hate relationship with politics. And yet she can see that it is the way to get things done.

“I see myself activating the city and using the voices and experiences of the people to learn truth and fight for what they want and need,” she says. “I will always work in the community, always give to Stockton.”

“When your heart tugs, you’ve got to go with it.”

*Opposite page: Ty-Licia Hooker '12 (center right) talks with high school students about their experience in the 2010 Success Summer Academy.*

*Below: Ty-Licia with Mayor Ann Johnston (l.) and Pacific President Pamela A. Eibeck (r.).*



## Another Success Story

Pacific’s Community Involvement Program is transforming Stockton and San Joaquin County.

Commonly referred to as CIP, the Community Involvement Program was launched in 1969 to increase diversity at Pacific and reach out to students in the Stockton community who are the first in their families to attend college. Like Success Summer Academy, CIP came about as a result of a movement led by students.

The program provides substantial tuition scholarships and a number of housing grants to qualified students. Academic support services such as tutoring and counseling are also available to help students succeed. Graduation rates for CIP students are 20 percent higher than the national average.

CIP has grown every year, with current enrollment for 2010–11 at 176 students. CIP students like Ty-Licia Hooker contribute hundreds of hours of community service throughout their time at Pacific, fostering a community activism that continues into their lives and careers. More than 1,000 students have graduated from Pacific through the CIP program in its 40-plus years. More than 60 percent of CIP alumni live and work in the Stockton and San Joaquin County area, giving back to the community that nurtured them.

**Find out more about CIP at [go.Pacific.edu/CIP](http://go.Pacific.edu/CIP).**