

# AT&T Aspire: Y Scholars of New York City

## Graduating Students, One Community at a Time



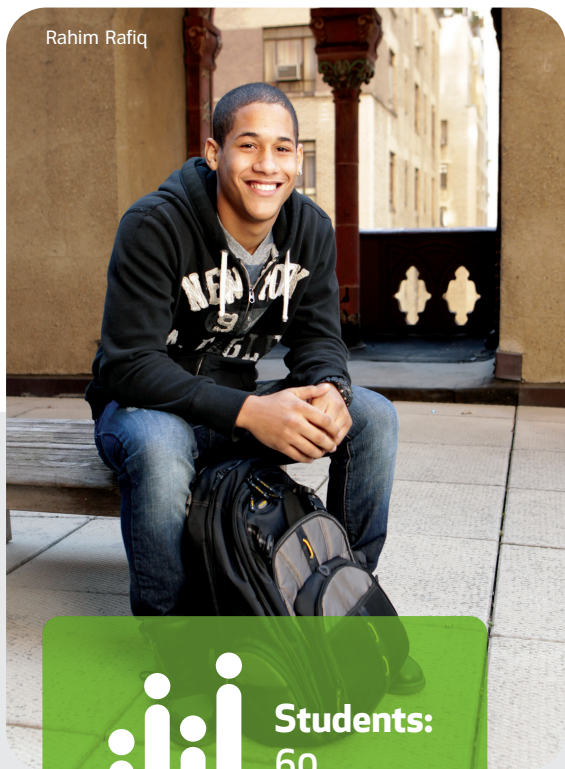
### Program Description:

The YMCA of Greater New York City's Y Scholars Program is a high school success and college access program for students in grades 6th to 12th who come from low-income and very low-income households. In New York City, more than one-third of all students currently fail to graduate high school. Failure rates are considerably higher among students of color, who constitute most of the youth served by the Y's teen programs. Furthermore, less than half of the students who do graduate are academically prepared to succeed in college.

Y staff members operate the Y Scholars Program on-site at the schools that participants attend. During the 2011-12 academic school year the program serves 650 students at 13 public schools in all five boroughs. Participants must commit to at least 120 program hours per school year and to additional program activities during the summer.

Programming is designed to help students achieve an extensive, pre-determined list of YMCA Grade Specific Outcomes related to academic and life skills development and college access planning. The Y internally evaluates the program on an ongoing basis to track student performance and satisfaction, modify program design, as necessary and assess whether the Grade Specific Outcomes are advancing college readiness.

Rahim Rafiq



**Students:**  
60



**Funding:**  
\$240,000

The program's success is obvious:

- 92.8 percent of Y Scholars High School Seniors have graduated
- 84.2 percent of Y Scholars High School Seniors are entering college in the fall.
- Y Scholars participants maintain an average GPA of 86 percent.
- 100 percent of middle school students will be promoted on time.
- This school year the program is expanding, in part due to contributions from AT&T, to serve over 1,000 students in NYC.
- The YMCA of Greater New York has for 160 years helped children and teens cultivate the values, skills and relationships that lead to positive behaviors.
- The Y advances health and well-being through programs that encourage healthy lifestyles, bond families closer together, and strengthen connection with others.
- The Y responds to critical social needs, with a focus on New York City's most vulnerable citizens and underserved populations.

"If I hadn't been a Y scholar, I wouldn't be as outspoken as I am now. The Y helped me to develop my speaking skills and grow as a person. The Y offers something for everyone – they can help you with work, help you volunteer, or help you with just about anything. I made a lot of friends at the Y that I might not have made in school. The Y brought us together, and helped us all appreciate how different people think."

Rahim Rafiq, Y Scholar