

# SISTERMENTORS

Promoting Education Among Women and Girls of Color

Summer 2007

A Newsletter for Donors and Friends of SistersMentors

## From the Executive Director

Dear Donors and Friends:

Welcome to our annual summer newsletter. This September SisterMentors will celebrate its tenth anniversary and we have much to report about our accomplishments. Thank you for your strong, continuing support of SisterMentors.

One of our major recent accomplishments is that our first group of girls got accepted into college. Five twelfth graders who have been with SisterMentors since eighth grade will begin college this fall. Girls received admissions to universities including Duke, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Hampton, Howard and Virginia Commonwealth University. These girls had a head start from our mentoring sessions and college visits over the years.

In the meantime, thanks to your generous donations, in April we took 22 girls, ages 11 to 17, on a four-day college visit to Barnard College, Columbia University and New York University. For most of our girls, this was their first visit to New York City.

SisterMentors also helped another woman of color to get her Ph.D. bringing the number of women of color we have helped to 26.

We are continuing to work hard to reach our goal of \$120,000 by December in honor of SisterMentors' tenth anniversary.

We will give you a further report on SisterMentors' activities in our fall newsletter. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason. I can be reached at 202-778-6424 or [director@sistermentors.org](mailto:director@sistermentors.org).

In the meantime, have a wonderful summer!!

Shireen K. Lewis, Ph.D.



## SisterMentors is Sending its First Group of Girls to College this Fall

As SisterMentors celebrates its tenth anniversary in September, we will also send our first group of girls off to college. The following is news about some of the girls: Roxie Jairrels will start Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia. Roxie was also accepted to the Art Institute of Pittsburg. Megan Tuck will attend Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Megan also gained acceptance to Hampton, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Shannon Scott will start Virginia Commonwealth University this fall. Shannon was also accepted to Fordham and Howard University.

## Girls' Four-Day Visit to Barnard College, Columbia University and New York University

"It was a great learning experience. It opened my eyes to a lot of new things," said one of the 22 girls who in April went on SisterMentors' visit to Barnard College, Columbia University and New York University. Girls in fifth through eleventh grades from the Washington, D.C. area spent four days in New York City where they attended classes, interacted with women of color undergraduates, saw a Broadway musical and visited Times Square.

The girls gazed in awe at skyscrapers, marveled at the fast pace of the city and had lots of fun riding the subway. Thanks to the generosity of some of our donors, the girls' visit was made even more exciting when they were surprised with tickets for

*The Color Purple* Broadway musical. Almost all of the girls had never been to a show on Broadway. The girls were familiar with *The Color Purple* because they had been reading the novel and were introduced to Alice Walker during their mentoring sessions with SisterMentors' women.

### **Social Skills and Etiquette Workshop**

"Today was one of the best days of my life," said one of the 25 girls who participated in our social skills and etiquette workshop in May. Thanks to support from one of our donors, Christine Boehm, SisterMentors had its third annual workshop led by Ms. Fannie Allen, of the prestigious Allen Etiquette Institute. Thanks to their commitment to supporting youth, the workshop was held at the upscale Madison Hotel, just blocks away from the White House. Girls were taught social skills including different ways to converse depending on the social setting. Girls were also treated to a four-course meal where they learned the etiquette of fine dining.

### **One More Woman of Color Ph.D.**

This past April, Carol Hedgspeth became SisterMentors' 26th Ph.D. Carol received her Ph.D. from Howard University. She is the mother of three young girls, including a baby born in January. Carol plans to become a university professor.

### **A Big THANK YOU!!!**

Thanks to all of our wonderful donors for your continuing support.

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**Promoting Education Among Women and Girls of Color**

We would also like to thank the following individuals, businesses and foundations: Julie Rogers, David and Gabrielle Fitzgerald, Sherry Quirk and Norma Scogin, Muriel Reed, Christopher T. Lyon and Arthur Coleman, Florrie J. Walker, Michael Moore, Marcia Ellis, Robert Veiga, Carol and Damon Hedgspeth, Richard A. Weibl, Reverend Sylvia Sumter, Father Dave Bergner, Chris Turner, Neighbors Inc., the Jerry Taylor and Nancy Bryant Foundation, Crowell & Moring Foundation, the Meyer Foundation, Monica Howell of the Madison Hotel, and Whole Foods Market, P Street, Washington, D.C.

Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers: Dawn Nelson, Mary Helen Coleman and Robbie Ross Tisch. Special thanks to Kris Miller and Chris Shirley, Joel Fleishman, Davis, Sita & Company, P.A. and our volunteer summer intern, Brenna Dwyer, a rising junior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

### **Our New Address – Thanks, Schiff Hardin**

Please note that we have moved. Our address remains the same except that our suite number has changed; we are now in Suite 300. Also our new phone number is 202-778-6424. Thank you to the law firm of Schiff Hardin for donating office space to EduSeed. Special thanks to Barbara Heffernan, Sherry Quirk, and Montina Cole, Chair of EduSeed's Board of Directors, for helping to make this possible.

### **Please Join us at our Tenth Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser**

This fall, SisterMentors will mark its tenth anniversary with a celebration and fundraiser! Please stay tuned for details.