

SISTERMENTORS

Promoting Education Among Women and Girls of Color
A Project of EduSeed

Winter 2011 Newsletter

A Newsletter for Donors and Friends of SisterMentors

A First for SisterMentors: Our College Graduates

As SisterMentors approaches its 15th anniversary in 2012, we have reached another milestone. Megan Tuck and Shannon Scott became the first two SisterMentors young women to graduate after completing four years of college.

Megan and Shannon started SisterMentors in eighth grade. They were mentored by SisterMentors women who inspired and guided them to stay in school, do well and go to college. It has been gratifying to witness Megan’s and Shannon’s transformation from middle school students to college graduates.



Megan Tuck (center), Duke University, Class of 2011

As these young women now launch into the world, we are proud of their achievements.

Megan Tuck graduated from Duke University in May 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and a Certificate in Markets and Management. Megan is the first in her immediate and extended family to graduate from college. Transitioning from college was difficult but she focused on looking for a job. Three months after graduating, Megan found a job as associate account executive with BlissPR in New York City. Her plans for the future include pursuing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Columbia University.

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41 Women of Color Doctorates

SisterMentors has helped six more women to earn doctorates, the largest number of women we have helped in one single year.

Fanta Aw earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from American University, Washington, D.C. Her dissertation is titled, *Building a “National Civilization” at Home and Abroad: International Students and Changing U.S. Political Economy.*

Barbara Ceptus earned a Ph.D. in Cultural Studies from the University of California, Davis. Her dissertation is titled, *(Re)membering Revolution, Imagining Blackness: The Haitian Revolution in the Black Cultural Imaginary.*

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From the Executive Director

Dear Donors and Friends:

Thank you for your strong support of SisterMentors. We are grateful to have donors and friends like you who continue to support us even when times are tough. Thank you so much!

As we approach SisterMentors' fifteenth anniversary next year, in 2012, I am happy to report that we have had a remarkable year.

Two of our young women in college graduated in May after completing four years. This is a first for us and we are very excited as we follow these young women while they embark on the next phase of their lives. We have helped five more young women to go to college, bringing the number of young women we have helped to go to college to 17. Azeb Legesse, who is in her second year at Virginia Commonwealth University, was accepted into the Honors College this fall because of her excellent academic performance. Cindy Ayala, one of our young women in community college, is working hard to transfer to a four-year university this spring. And some of our young women in their junior year are studying abroad, including in France and the Caribbean.

SisterMentors helped six more women to earn doctorates, the largest number we have helped in one single year. The women are from various disciplines, including Environmental Science, Cultural Studies and Physical Therapy. After earning their degree, many new opportunities have opened up for these new doctorates. For example, Barbara Ceptus started a position as a Leadership Development Officer at the Council on Foundations in Arlington, Virginia, and Melanie Harrison accepted a position as a Science and Policy Advisor at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Santa Rosa, California.

Two of the women who we helped earn their doctorate were granted tenure earlier this year. Koritha Mitchell at Ohio State University and Laura Daughtery at Catholic University were promoted to associate professor at their universities. One of our recent doctorates, Tisha Y. Lewis, will give the keynote address at the 2012 Centre for the Study of New Literacies International Conference at the University of Sheffield, England. Tisha is a tenure track assistant professor at Georgia State University.



Our Visit to Yogaville

This year, we brought the SisterMentors message to more people than ever as we continue to build a community around our work. We held thirteen one-hour information sessions introducing the program to 136 people, many of whom were hearing about SisterMentors for the first time. Guests gave enthusiastic feedback on our work and raved about the testimonies, from the girls and women we serve, about the impact of our program on their lives. All of our guests were invited to a fundraiser breakfast event we held on November 9th where we featured the first short documentary film on SisterMentors.

This school year, mentors are focused on girls' personal development as they continue to help girls prepare for college admission. Since the girls had been asking for yoga classes, we kicked off our personal development initiative with a visit to Satchidananda Ashram-Yogaville, a yoga community just outside of Charlottesville, Virginia. The girls raved about their visit in their evaluations. They loved the quiet time they spent in the upper room dedicated to meditation in the LOTUS shrine, and the animal poses they learned in their yoga class.

One afternoon in late October while I was sitting at my desk in my office, I received a call from the White House. It was Riana Lynn of the White House Council on Women and Girls calling to invite SisterMentors' girls to a tour of the White House. The girls were thrilled on hearing the news since none of them had ever been to the White House. In November, we got an escorted tour accompanied by Ms. Lynn and a White House intern. We are grateful to Ms. Lynn for the invitation and this wonderful experience for the girls.

We are very pleased about our successes this past year and want to thank all of you for your generous support over the years. As we move toward our fifteenth anniversary next year, in 2012, we would like to express our deep gratitude to all of you who support our work year after year. You are helping us to change the lives, not just those of the girls and women in SisterMentors, but of so many more people. The ripple effects of our work are throughout the U.S. and also abroad as the girls and women we help go out into the world and serve others.

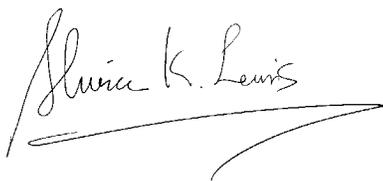
We know that times are tough due to the economy, but I kindly request that you put SisterMentors on your list of priorities for giving as the year draws to a close.

Please continue to support us. You can send a check in the mail, make a donation online at sistermentors.com by clicking on the **DONATE NOW** link, or donate to us through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). We are listed under our umbrella nonprofit organization, EduSeed, and our CFC number is 90398.

As always, I encourage you to contact me for any reason. I am always delighted to hear from you. I can be reached at director@sistermentors.org or at 202-778-6424. I look forward to talking with you.

Thank you for your support of SisterMentors!

Sincerely,



Shireen K. Lewis, Ph.D.



Our Visit to the White House

41 Women of Color Doctorates

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Melanie Harrison earned a Ph.D. in Marine Estuarine and Environmental Science from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Her dissertation is titled, *Biogeochemical Hotspots of Nitrogen Removal in Urban Streams and Riparian Wetlands*.

Kenda Kittrell earned a Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy from the School of Medicine, University of Maryland, Baltimore. Her final project is a video-based training module for direct care staff who work with adults with mental and cognitive impairments.

Dora Oduor earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from American University, Washington, D.C. Her dissertation is titled, *The Millennium Development Goals and the Role of Partners in Development: The Influence of Faith-based Organizations on HIV/AIDS Prevention in Kenya*.

JaNay Queen earned a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Maryland, College Park. Her dissertation is titled, *The Adaptive Challenges of Collaborative Leaders in a Public-Private Partnership*.

I was experiencing major writer's block and had not made any progress on the proposal for several months and was feeling overwhelmed. I had no motivation and was ready to give up on my dissertation. I had an idea for a dissertation topic but the topic lacked focus. I was in the process of meeting with my dissertation committee to let them know that I did not want to continue with the dissertation. I decided to join SisterMentors instead to give the dissertation one last try before giving up. After I joined SisterMentors, I began setting three weeks goals and drew a timeline for completing the proposal. Within a few months of joining SisterMentors, I identified a research question, wrote my proposal during the Summer of 2006, and in December 2007 defended my proposal and became ABD (All But the Dissertation) — this meant that I was very well on my way to earning my Ph.D.

Fanta Aw, Ph.D.
SisterMentors Graduate, 2011

Five More Girls Start College this Fall



BINTA BAYOH

It is usually said that when friends go off to college and become roommates their friendship falls apart. But, the opposite has happened with me and Sherifa. We are closer than ever. Our college experience so far has been positive mainly because we have each other. We support and motivate each other. For example, if I do not have the energy to get up on mornings and go to class, Sherifa insists that I find the energy to do so.

Transitioning from high school to college is a chance for us to become independent and deal with everyday life without our parents. But, we are both homesick and long for our family and friends, especially because UVA Wise is seven hours away from home so we cannot go home on weekends. One great thing about UVA Wise is that there are a lot of friendly staff who help make being away from home easier.

UVA Wise is located in a small county called Wise and is the only branch of the University of Virginia. The university's main campus is in Charlottesville. Unlike most public universities, the college offers the same attention to its students as a small private university. For example, there are twelve students in my English class so the professor gives everyone individualized attention on papers and in the classroom. We think it is easier to make and maintain good grades in this supportive environment.

Binta Bayoh and Sherifa Idris are at the University of Virginia College at Wise in Virginia.



CECILE KING

While being a freshman in college and being pulled out of my comfort zone, my first impressions have been nothing but blessed. Though I know I can go to class whenever I want, and do whatever I feel, I have grown the responsibility to do what is right. Even if I want to party I stay inside and study, though I party sometimes. When I go to parties, I know not to drink and fall for anything that is bad.

I got A's and B's on my midterm exams. I learned how to balance activities and time management. I am a cheerleader, participate in student government and various committees, and have a radio show. I am learning how to use my money wisely, and am maintaining my grades. All this has shown me that I can take care of myself and have learned how to balance academics and having fun.

Cecile King is at Penn State University in Pennsylvania.

MARGIE OBENG

When graduation came around, a lot of my former classmates were nervous and generally not emotionally ready to leave home. I did not feel the same; I thought I was more than ready to leave. It was not until I moved in to East Halls at Pennsylvania State University and after my parents left that I realized I was really on my own.

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Girls' 4-Day College Visit to Virginia Commonwealth University and Goucher College



Eighth Grader and Goucher President
Sanford J. Ungar

"I liked how SisterMentors girls in college took time to show us their campus," said one of the girls currently in SisterMentors. Eighteen girls, ages 11 to 18 in elementary, middle and high school, spent two days in April at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond, Virginia and another two days at Goucher College, just outside of Baltimore, Maryland. The goal of the visits this year was to visit with SisterMentors young women who are currently in college, and for girls to see the contrast between a large urban university within several city blocks and a small private liberal arts college secluded on several hundred acres of land populated with trees. The average class size of first year students at VCU is 3,600 as compared to 400 students at Goucher. Goucher was originally named the Woman's College of Baltimore and became co-educational in 1986. On both campuses, girls sat in on classes, ate in the dining hall, visited the residence halls and toured the campus.

At Goucher, the girls met with President Sanford J. Ungar. They attended a session on admissions and financial aid and a workshop on preparing a college application with Mr. Surbeck, the Director of Admissions. They also participated in a class on religion with Professor Ann Duncan.

Session with the Director of Admissions at Goucher

In their meeting with the Director of Admissions, Mr. Surbeck, the girls learned that Goucher distinguishes itself from other colleges in the U.S. by its requirement that every student must study abroad while at the college.

Hands shot up in the air as girls asked rapid fire questions about how students can afford to pay to study abroad and when they can go abroad to study. Mr. Surbeck explained that students can spend as little as three weeks or as much as a full academic year studying abroad and that Goucher participates in over seventy programs worldwide. Students get \$1,200 from the college to pay for their first trip abroad. When one of the girls asked why study abroad is a requirement, Mr. Surbeck explained that Goucher believes that its students cannot understand other people in the world if they do not visit other parts of the world and experience the culture.

Meeting with Goucher President Sanford J. Ungar

"The President definitely cares about his students making it even more worthwhile to study here," said one of the girls. In spite of a very busy schedule, which included an unexpected trip out of town during our visit, President Ungar spent an hour talking with the girls in SisterMentors. During their meeting with President Ungar, the girls learned more about the thinking behind the requirement at Goucher that every student must study abroad. The president explained that Americans need to learn about other parts of the world because all of the good ideas are not just American ideas. He said that everyone should know a little of everything so that we can all be prepared for life changes. President Ungar explained that he has done many things in his life including working as a journalist, as director of Voice of America, and as a host on National Public Radio.

One of the girls asked President Ungar why he chose to become president of Goucher. He responded that he wanted a chance to work with college students since they are at a time in their lives when they are growing and learning. He added that he sees this as an opportunity to pay back what others have taught him. Another girl asked what is his favorite thing about being president and President Ungar replied that he loves talking with students and listening to their ideas. "I loved meeting with the president. He answered a lot of questions and he was really cool," said one of the girls.

News from Our Girls in their Third Year of College



KEDEST FIRDAWEKE

This summer, I took two classes that were required for my major. One was Mass Communication 204: Story. It's a class on how to create a story within every advertisement we work on. And the second class was Statistics 208 which was an introductory class so it wasn't hard at all. So I finished well with an 'A' in both courses. So that was the highlight of my summer.

While taking classes I was also working as a Summer Conference Facility Assistant, which was basically being a Resident Assistant for students who come to VCU for conferences. I really enjoyed it because I met some people from various parts of the world as well as diverse backgrounds.

Right after working with the conferences, I started Residence Assistance training for the 2011-2012 school year. This year, I have been placed in an upper class hall. I'm really excited about this year because I will be able to take classes toward my major.

Kedest Firdaweke is at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia.



RUHAMA YARED

This fall, I am studying abroad at the University of the West Indies on the Barbados campus. Goucher requires that every student must study abroad before they graduate. Studying abroad in Barbados is an experience that is so new and educational in many ways.

Getting used to the differences here in Barbados, I have learned a lot about a whole different culture. For example, everything in Barbados is slow; unlike Americans, Bajans take their time to do everything. On campus, I had difficulty finding my classes the first week because everything is so confidential. Most of the buildings are locked and guarded; people would have to ring bells to be let in. However at Goucher, all academic buildings are open access. I am taking four classes: African Literature; Population Ecology; Abstract Algebra; and Probability. I like all my classes.

I am planning on volunteering at a primary school soon. I spend my weekends visiting different parts of the island and really enjoy that. Overall, I am really enjoying my time in Barbados. I will miss the friends I made here when I return home.

Ruhama Yared is at Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland.

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Social Skills and Leadership Workshop



"I learned a lot of new techniques and that it all mostly depends on attitude," said one of the 21 girls who attended the Social Skills and Leadership Workshop on May 28, 2011. This year we changed the name of the workshop to more accurately reflect the work we do. In addition to teaching girls social skills, we also focus on leadership skills.

As in the past, the workshop was taught by Ms. Fannie Allen of the prestigious Allen Etiquette Institute and held at the Jefferson Hotel, located a few blocks away from the White House. We are very grateful to the Jefferson for providing us with discounted services which enable us to provide the workshop at this prestigious hotel.

"I learned that it takes confidence and self-assurance to be a leader," said one of the girls. The focus of the workshop was leadership skills. The girls were taught that if they want to be a leader, they should act, look and speak like a leader. Girls were advised to speak clearly and not use slang or end their sentences with the words "you know." They were coached on public speaking and one of the girls went up to a podium to give an impromptu short speech. Ms. Allen coached the girls on appropriate posture at the podium including standing tall, speaking loud enough so everyone can hear, and making eye contact with the audience.

Girls were also told that they should prepare well when speaking in public and should practice their speech many times before they deliver it at the event.

Girls also role-played a job interview and were coached on how to behave from the moment they entered the office lobby until the moment they said goodbye to the receptionist. Ms. Allen pointed out the need to dress well, to have a firm handshake and to be courteous to everyone including the receptionist.

As in the past, the girls learned the etiquette of dining during a four-course meal. They were instructed in the differences between the American and Continental styles of dining. As they girls began to sit at the table, Ms. Allen mentioned that if they were to get confused about which place setting belongs to them that they should remember the general rule that liquids are on the right and solids are on the left. While they were eating, Ms. Allen demonstrated where the knives and forks should be placed on the plate during the meal and where they should be placed at the end of meal.

This year, Ruhama Yared and Cindy Ayala, two of our young women in college, attended the workshop. Also, Megan Tuck, who just graduated from Duke University, joined us and shared her experiences about her four years in college. Megan also talked about the network of friends she created at Duke and advised girls to reach out to others who are different from them.

"Very elegant," "informative" and "pleasurable" were some of the words the girls used when evaluating the workshop. Year after year, new and returning girls express strong positive feelings about this workshop which is a valuable aspect of SisterMentors' contribution to girls' personal development.

Five More Girls Start College this Fall

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MARGIE OBENG

Even though I am four hours away from home, it's hard to get home from my university. I am homesick but I am getting accustomed to my surroundings.

Academic life in college is much different from high school. Professors are supportive and try to keep you up to date on upcoming assignments, but students have a much larger responsibility when it comes to keeping up with classes. There is no room for slacking. In general, I have small classes, but in my Biological Science class of about 200 students, I sit up front every class and make sure to participate and ask questions. If professors know your face, it makes it easier to do well.

You do not want to walk into class not prepared to contribute to the discussion or answer questions. It can be overwhelming at times, but time management is key. You also have to make sure you study ahead of time. Penn State is a huge school, but I am meeting new people because I have joined cultural organizations such as the African Student Association and the Dominican Student Association. I am happy that I have found multicultural students here because the student population is not very diverse. Next semester, I plan on joining political organizations, including the Young Democrats and the NAACP.

Margie Obeng is at Penn State University in Pennsylvania.

News From Our Girls in their Third Year of College

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REDIET ABATE

Trying to manage time and not giving in to procrastination has always been a problem of mine.

So when I entered my junior year with 18 credits, two jobs, and extracurricular activities, it felt like the real world was knocking at my door for the first time. My first semester as a junior presented a lot of new challenges. Not only did I start taking courses for my major, I was also getting into my third year as a student athletic trainer. So my first semester as a junior was overwhelming and the most academically challenging semester of my college career. But I am surviving and holding on to my dream to become the first Female African American Athletics Trainer for an NFL team.

Rediet Abate is at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

CINDY AYALA

I have applied to transfer to a four-year university in the spring and am waiting to hear whether I have been accepted. Instead of applying to transfer this fall, I decided to retake some classes to get better grades. I spent most of the summer and fall volunteering with SisterMentors. I attended informational sessions and spoke about the impact of the program on my life and on the life of my family. Speaking at these sessions really improved my self-confidence and my speaking skills. Now, I can talk in front of an audience without much anxiety. I am very much looking forward to transferring to a four-year university to earn my Bachelor's degree.

Cindy Ayala is at Northern Virginia Community College and will transfer to a four-year university this spring.

Thank You Very Much!

Very special thanks to the law firm of Schiff Hardin LLP including its Diversity Committee. Special thanks to the Managing Partner of Schiff's D.C. office, Sherry Quirk, and Schiff Partner, Regina Speed-Bost.

Thanks to all of our wonderful donors and supporters, including everyone who supported us at our November 9th fundraiser event and everyone who came to our information sessions on SisterMentors. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, our event sponsors, American Institutes for Research, BuckleySandler LLP and Wiley Rein LLP. Thanks also to intellectual property attorneys Claudia Cantarella and Laura Possesky. Special thanks to the film crew --- Ryan Hill, Danielle Williams and Nathan Golan --- for all the love and very hard work they put into creating the first short documentary film on SisterMentors, and to Songwriter, Dhyani Simonini of Yogaville for creating the special song "Sister Friend," Vocalist Linda Straley for performing the song and Madhavan of Yogaville for the lovely photos of the girls. Very special thanks to Megan Tuck, Dr. Tisha Lewis and Cindy Ayala for sharing their stories with us in the documentary film.

Thanks to Ruhama Yared for hosting our girls at Goucher College and to Azeb Legesse, Maya Simpkins, and Kedest Firdaweke, for hosting our girls at VCU. Thanks to Goucher President Sanford J. Ungar, Corky Surbeck, Director of Admissions at Goucher College, and Ann Duncan, Professor of Religion. Many thanks to Karl Straub for the free guitar lessons for one of our girls, Anjanette Milladge and Sullivan & Worcester for the digital camera, DJ Kim for helping to fund the visit to Yogaville, Tacy Cook Telego for the girls' yoga mats, Dr. Fanta Aw for the girls' journals and Kristin Haffert for the video camera.

Special thanks to the Jerry Taylor and Nancy Bryant Foundation, the Meyer Foundation, the Crowell & Moring Foundation, the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia, the Stentzel Foundation, Whole Foods Market P Street, Seed IP Law Group, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield and everyone who donates to us through the Combined Federal Campaign. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers, Renae Baird, Dawn Nelson, Lee Hoffman, Mignonette Dooley, LaShoun Christian, Mary Helen Coleman, John Teschner and Wade Wallace. Thanks to everyone at Satchidananda Ashram -Yogaville for making the girls' visit very special, especially Reverend Kumari de Sachy, Sraddha Van Dyke, Swami Gurucharanananda Mataji and Swami Dayananda. Special thanks to Donya Douglas, Tracy Gary, Riana Lynn, Maria Tildon, Serra Sippel, Faye Williams of Sisterspace and Books, and Gloria Minott of WPFW 89.3 FM. And, as always, thanks to the women and girls of SisterMentors for their fortitude and grace.



Gifty Boakye, St John's University, New York

A First for SisterMentors: Our College Graduates

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Shannon Scott
Virginia Commonwealth University, Class of 2011

Shannon Scott graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Business Management with a concentration in Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Shannon is currently pursuing a certificate at Georgetown University from its Certified Paralegal Legal Studies Program. The program is recognized by the American Bar Association as a premier program and it is taught by practicing law professors from top law firms mainly in Washington, D.C. The courses are said to be equivalent to the first semester of law school and Shannon is recognized as an excellent student.

Shannon will decide if she wants to continue her legal education when she completes the program. Her immediate goal is to work in a law firm as a legal management specialist while she considers the next stage of her education. Shannon will then decide between pursuing a law degree at Georgetown University, a Master of Business Administration, and a master's degree in Human Resource Management.

"In the field of environmental science it is rare to find women of color, particularly African American women. Given this disparity, particularly in science, technology, math and engineering (STEM) fields, it is vital that programs like SisterMentors exist to support women of color pursuing their doctorate. Often during my graduate studies SisterMentors provided me with an avenue to share my thoughts and express my feelings with individuals who were experiencing similar obstacles and struggles. The program also provided me with an opportunity to mentor young women and to help support their personal and academic goals.

Melanie Harrison, Ph.D.
SisterMentors Graduate, 2011

SisterMentors' Recent Accomplishments

- Two SisterMentors young women graduated after completing four years of college.
- Helped five more girls start college in Fall 2011.
- Helped six more women to earn doctorates --- the largest number of women SisterMentors has helped in a single year --- bringing the total number of women SisterMentors has helped to 41.
- Took girls to visit Virginia Commonwealth University and Goucher College.
- Two of the women SisterMentors helped to earn their doctorate were granted tenure by their university.
- Creation of a short documentary film on SisterMentors which premiered on November 9th at a successful fundraiser.
- Launched personal development initiative for girls with a visit to Satchidananda Ashram-Yogaville to visit the LOTUS shrine, a world symbol of peace, and to take a yoga class.

PLEASE SUPPORT SISTERMENTORS

I would like to make a donation to SisterMentors. My donation will help SisterMentors to continue mentoring women and girls of color.

Choose this:

DONATION BY CHECK

Please send your donation by December 31, 2011

- Here is my donation of \$250 or more
- I cannot give \$250 or more at this time but here is my donation of (please choose one):
- \$200
 - \$175
 - \$150
 - \$100
 - \$50
 - Other: \$ _____



- Yes, my employer/company has a matching gift program and I have asked them to match my donation to SisterMentors.

Or choose this:

ONLINE DONATION

Please make your donation today

- I am making a donation online at www.sistermentors.org by clicking on the **DONATE NOW** link and following the instructions.

Or choose this:

DONATION THROUGH CFC

- My employer is a federal agency or otherwise participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) of the National Capital Area. I am making my donation through CFC by filling out my employer's pledge form and writing in EduSeed's CFC number which is 90398.

For donations by check, please use the enclosed envelope and make your check payable to EduSeed/SisterMentors and mail to:

**EduSeed/SisterMentors
1666 K Street N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20006**

Please remember your donation is tax deductible.

Who We Are

SisterMentors is a project of EduSeed, a nonprofit organization located in Washington, D.C. EduSeed's mission is to promote education among traditionally disadvantaged and underserved communities such as women and people of color. SisterMentors helps women of color to complete their dissertation and earn their doctorate. The women in turn, while in our program, give back to their community by mentoring girls of color in elementary, middle and high schools, primarily from low income families, inspiring girls to go to college. The women and girls are African Americans, Latinas, Asian Americans, and immigrants.

Our goal is to help stop the high drop-out rate among girls of color and increase the number of women of color doctorates.

We believe that doctoral candidates and Ph.D.s of color are excellent role models — and a powerful yet untapped source of knowledge, motivation and inspiration — for children of color at risk of dropping out of school.

We exist because statistics show that more than 50 percent of doctoral candidates drop out of their programs. In 2008, out of 16,044 of all women doctorates, only 3,789 were women of color (Black or African American, Hispanic, Asian and Native American combined). We also exist because girls of color are dropping out of school at an early age. Our message to girls is to stay in school, do well and go to college.

We have helped 41 women of color to complete their dissertations and earn their doctorates since September 1997. We have helped send 17 young women to college, including to Duke University, Goucher College, Bates College and Northern Virginia Community College.

EduSeed's Board of Directors

We would like to thank Kim Reed for her service. EduSeed's current board members are the following:

- Montina M. Cole
- Shireen K. Lewis
- Kris Miller
- Margery Sullivan

For more information about EduSeed's Board of Directors, please visit www.eduseed.org.

DONATE to Us Through CFC

Our umbrella nonprofit organization, EduSeed, was selected to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) this year.

If you have friends who are federal employees in the Washington, D.C. area, please ask them to donate to us through CFC. We are listed in the CFC catalog under **EduSeed**, and our designation number is **90398**. Thanks for your support of our work!!!

EDUSEED/SISTERMENTORS

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Promoting Education Among Women and Girls of Color

Winter 2011 Newsletter