

SISTERMENTORS

Promoting Education Among Women and Girls of Color

Summer 2005 Newsletter

A Newsletter for Donors and Friends of SistersMentors

From the Executive Director

Dear Donors and Friends:

Welcome to our second summer newsletter. Something good happens at SisterMentors every day and we always want to share that good news with you since our work is made possible because of your strong, continuing support. Thank you!

This newsletter reports on some of the activities your donations have funded, including an overnight trip to the University of Virginia ("UVA") in Charlottesville, Virginia. 25 girls of color ages 12 to 18 went on the trip. Girls were hosted by Dean Rick Turner of the Office of African American Affairs at UVA. On their evaluation, girls rated highest their participation in an upper level sociology class where they were called on by the professor and participated in class discussion.

Thanks to generous support from one of our donors, Chistine Boehm, 26 girls participated in a social skills and etiquette workshop in February. We received very positive feedback from the girls and their mothers after this workshop.

Also, this is a very exciting time for SisterMentors since we have now helped 21 women of color to get doctorates!!! We expect at least three more doctorates in 2005.

We will give you a further report on SisterMentors activities in our fall newsletter, so please keep an eye out. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason. I can be reached at director@sistermentors.org or 202-775-6846.

In the meantime, have a wonderful summer!

Shireen K. Lewis, Ph.D.



Girls' Overnight Visit to the University of Virginia

"This visit really broadened my horizon[s] and I need to get my grades up because I really like UVA," said one of the 25 girls who went on SisterMentors' visit to the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Girls in grades seventh through eleventh from Alexandria, Virginia, Prince George's County, Maryland and Washington, D.C. spent two extraordinary days at UVA.

The trip began with a tasty and nutritious breakfast donated by Whole Foods Market of Arlington, Virginia. The highlights of the trip were girls' participation in an upper level sociology class for juniors and seniors, and a morning spent with the Assistant Dean of Admissions. Girls also listened to a presentation on financial aid and had a dialogue session with women of color undergraduates. In addition to participating in a class, girls also got a real taste of college life when they had lunch in one of the university's largest dining halls.

SisterMentors Reaches a Milestone with 21 Ph.Ds!!!

Carolyn Peoples Veiga and Laura Daughtery helped SisterMentors reach a milestone when they received their doctorates during the last two months of 2004. SisterMentors has now helped 21 women of color to get doctorates!!! Carolyn Peoples Veiga received her doctorate from the University of

Maryland College Park, College of Education, Department of Human Development. Laura Daughtery received her doctorate from the School of Social Service at Catholic University.

Social Skills and Etiquette Workshop

Thanks to generous support from one of our donors, Christine Boehm, 26 SisterMentors girls were treated in February to a workshop on social skills and etiquette. Because of Ms. Boehm's funding, SisterMentors was able to hire Ms. Fannie Allen, of the prestigious Allen Etiquette Institute, to conduct the workshop which was held at a luxurious hotel in downtown Washington, D.C. Ms. Allen has years of experience in teaching social skills and etiquette to children, teenagers, college students and the corporate and diplomatic world. Girls were taught social skills including showing respect to their peers, meeting and greeting others, and positive body language. Girls were also treated to a four-course meal where they were taught the etiquette of fine dining.

EduSeed Welcomes New Board Member

We welcome Carolyn Peoples Veiga, Ph.D. to EduSeed's board of directors. Dr. Peoples Veiga is a recent SisterMentors graduate. She is a registered nurse and has an extensive background in nursing. She is also an active volunteer in her community. Dr. Peoples Veiga has established a Future Nurses Club at a Washington, D.C. high school and provides mentoring to students who want to pursue a nursing career. She mentors and tutors middle school girls of color and provides health and wellness

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workshops for girl scouts in her church and community.

We would like to thank outgoing board member and SisterMentors graduate, Kangbai Konate, for her numerous contributions to EduSeed and SisterMentors.

A Big THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to all our wonderful individual donors for their continuing support. We would also like to thank the following individuals, businesses and foundations: Linda Orr, Tracy Gary, Jean Beard, Jerry Taylor and Nancy Bryant Foundation, Crowell & Moring Foundation, Saks Incorporated Foundation, the Falcon Fund and Whole Foods Market.

Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers: Ghada Attieh, Wendy Demming, Jeannie Engel, Meredith May, Anjanette Milladge, Elizabeth Nash, Dawn Nelson, Sarah Posner, Michael Sherman, Jacqueline Thomas, Robbie Ross Tisch and Lisa Webster. Special thanks to Jennifer Nolte for her generosity, grace and professionalism.

Thank You to Sullivan & Worcester!!!

Special thanks to Sullivan & Worcester for generously donating office space to EduSeed. Thanks for this valuable support, and everything else you do for EduSeed and SisterMentors!

Please Support Us at Whole Foods Market

On Wednesday June 29, 2005, Whole Foods Market on P Street in Washington, D.C. will donate to EduSeed five percent of all its proceeds for the day. Please come shop at the P Street store, meet SisterMentors women and girls and support us!!