Hoob Dreams Scholarship Fund has grown to become the most comprehensive, successful college access and support program for hard working District of Columbia public high school students who experience tremendous obstacles. The youth we serve face multiple barriers to college access. Our integrated approach addresses students’ complex and multi-faceted needs. Hoop Dreams is a comprehensive program that promotes student success and builds relationships in the community. It is more than the sum of its parts.

Hoop Dreams is
• more than just a scholarship program
• more than just a mentoring program
• more than just an internship program
• more than just a college preparation program

Hoop Dreams is an intense, comprehensive and coordinated effort that produces outstanding results.

“I had been praying for a miracle. I just didn’t know it would come in the form of a program I signed up for one day at school, a program that ended up changing my life forever. Thank you, Hoop Dreams.”

— Laitesha Newborn - Hoop Dreams ’01, LDS Business College
The financial demands of college can discourage many promising students from pursuing higher education. Hoop Dreams Scholarships are awarded based on an application process that weights motivation to succeed, academic ability, test scores, a personal essay, financial need and successful participation in our year long college prep programs.

- Since 1996, Hoop Dreams has awarded $2 million dollars in academic college scholarships to more than 500 inner city District of Columbia public high school students.
- Awards range from $1,000 to $10,000 and Hoop Dreams works closely with students to help them secure financial aid from all available resources.
- Students who maintain academic standards and show a commitment to community service may reapply for renewed scholarships each year.

Many of our students are the first in their family to attend college. Hoop Dreams matches students with caring Washington area professionals in a long term structured program to help guide them through the college application process and beyond.

- Since 1998, approximately 400 students and mentors have experienced the mutually beneficial mentor relationship.
- Hoop Dreams mentors and students attend structured and monthly meeting sessions throughout the school year and also meet regularly one on one with their students.
- Mentoring sessions include:
  - Presentations by community and business leaders who share the obstacles they have overcome and offer meaningful insight into achieving goals.
  - Workshops on topics such as applying to college, essay writing, financial aid, practice interviewing and career planning.
  - Mentor relationships continue through college.

“I have now had the privilege and joy of experiencing the pleasure of seeing hope arise in an individual.” — Kevin Blair, Mentor

Many of our scholarships are based on GRE scores that are not reflective of the student's ability to succeed in college. Through a partnership with The Princeton Review, we are able to offer their highly respected SAT preparation and review course without cost to the students.

- Approximately 200 students have taken the intensive 8-10 week course since 1999.
- Student SAT scores average an 85 point increase with individual increases as high as 200 points.
- Higher SAT scores significantly increase the college options available to students.

“After the Hoop Dreams Princeton Review SAT Prep classes, my SAT scores rose so much that I qualified for a scholarship in Journalism and a waiver from the placement tests that most freshmen have to take. I promise to come back and inspire other students to do the same.” — Alika Walker – Hoop Dreams 99 Florida A & M

In many instances, lack of exposure and preparation results in test scores that are not reflective of the student’s ability to succeed in college. Through a partnership with The Princeton Review, we are able to offer their highly respected SAT preparation and review course without cost to the students.

College Entrance Rates
- Hoop Dreams’ 2001 Mentoring Program students ..................................................95%
- All high school students nationally...........................................................................67%
- High school students nationally without a parent who graduated from college ..................46%

College Retention Rates
- Hoop Dreams Mentoring Program students who received support of $5,000 or more ..................................89%
- Hoop Dreams Mentoring Program students who received support of $2,000-$5,000 ...............................................................................74%
- Students nationally without a parent who attended college ..................................57-62%

- Of the first four Hoop Dreams scholars to graduate from college in 2001, two have secured career-focused positions at major corporations in the Washington area, one is pursuing an advanced degree and the fourth is working toward a Masters Degree while teaching alongside Susie Kay, Hoop Dreams’ founder at HD Woodson High School in Washington, DC. The three who are in Washington are active Hoop Dreams volunteers.

Hoop Dreams effort was begun in 1996 and is still led by the founder and President, Susie Kay, who has served for over 10 years as an American Government Teacher at HD Woodson High School. Woodson is an inner-city high school east of the Anacostia River in Washington, DC. Kay saw many of her hard working students being denied the opportunity to pursue their dreams of a college education due to the lack of financial and other resources. She, along with a small group of dedicated people make up the committee that brings together students and the business community to help young people make the most of their dreams, we seek to cultivate a next generation of community leaders who can return to strengthen our workplaces, neighborhoods and communities through a full circle of service that is the best way to build a bright future for us all.

In addition to helping our students achieve their goals, Hoop Dreams is building bridges, promoting understanding and creating mutual respect through community events that link inner city youth and the DC region's business and civic leaders. By bringing all parts of our community together to help young people on one level, Hoop Dreams seeks to cultivate a next generation of community leaders who can return to strengthen our workplaces, neighborhoods and classrooms through a full circle of service that is the best way to build a bright future for us all.