



## Celebrating 19 years of Mentoring Dreamers and Fostering Leaders 2009 Program Evaluation Summary

As the “I Have a Dream” Foundation of Boulder County celebrates 19 years of mentoring and tutoring Boulder County youth, we are pleased to present the following evaluation summary which incorporates multiple sources of evaluation methods and data (online surveys designed for Dreamers, mentors and tutors, written surveys for parents, school grades, test scores, attendance rates). The Boulder Valley School District and St. Vrain Valley School District provided the grade, test scores and attendance data. The National Research Center developed the surveys and collected and tallied all of the results.

### WHO ARE THE DREAMERS?

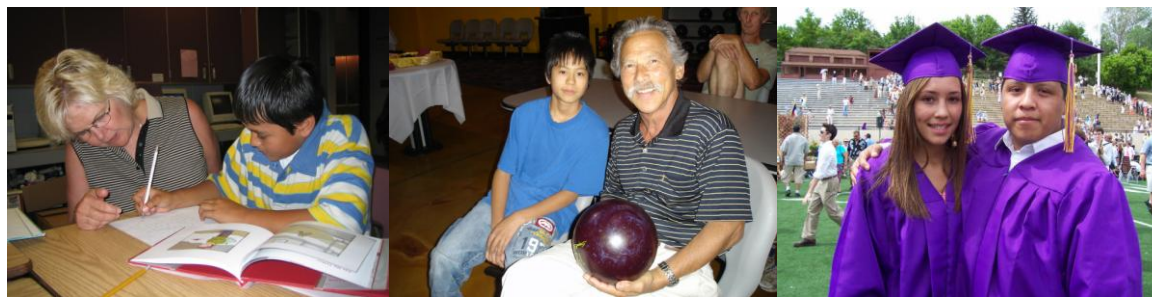
In 2009, 80 parents and 147 Dreamers in grades 3rd-12th responded to the survey (47% of the eligible parents and 86% of the eligible Dreamers) and we collected school data on all of the Dreamers in the Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley School Districts. Almost all Dreamers are ethnic minority students (83% Hispanic) and 100% are from low-income households. \*Eligible is defined as local Dreamers who participated in “I Have a Dream” programming.

### HOW ARE DREAMERS DOING?

#### Academic Achievement

*Dreamers continue to demonstrate academic success*

- 86% report that they like school.
- The average daily attendance in school for Dreamers was 90%.
- 100% of the Dreamer group scored higher than the Limited English Proficient population in the three CSAP areas (reading, writing and math).
- Both the middle-school and high-school Dreamer groups improved in the reading and writing CSAP measurement areas.
- The average GPA for all middle-school Dreamers was 2.6 (31% received a GPA of 3.0 or higher.)
- The average GPA for all high-school Dreamers was 2.2 (20% received a GPA of 3.0 or higher.)
- 99% of the Dreamers report that they realize getting good grades in school will help them get into college.
- 100% of Dreamers believe they will graduate from high school and 100% want to attend college.



## Psychological Well-Being

*Dreamers are learning life skills to make positive life choices and resist negative behaviors*

- 92% report that they are making positive life choices and 91% report they are learning positive life skills.
- 95% of Dreamers report that they feel good about their future.
- 33% report drinking alcohol in the past 30 days (compared to 45% of all BVSD students\*).
- 13% report smoking cigarettes in the past 30 days (compared to 18% of all BVSD students\*).
- 13% report using marijuana in the past 30 days (compared to 23% of all BVSD students\*).

\*2005 BVSD Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data

*Dreamers are becoming prepared for meaningful employment*

- 95% of Dreamer report that they have been exposed to a variety of career options.
- 95% report that they are gaining the skills needed for employment.
- 100% report that they realize the connection between getting good grades and having a successful career.

*Dreamers are connected to their community*

- 98% report they have participated in at least one extra-curricular activity.
- 86% report that they are volunteering in their community.
- 86% of Dreamers report that they are more interested in their community and world problems.
- 90% report that they feel better about them-selves because they help others.

### **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IS IMPORTANT**

*Parents who are involved in their Dreamer's lives and have high educational expectations, make a significant difference in their success*

- 93% of the parents report that they attend school activities and parent/teacher conferences.
- 98% of the parents report that they expect their child to get good grades.
- 99% of the parents report that they expect their child to graduate from high school and 97% report they expect their child to pursue post-secondary education.

### **SATISFACTION MATTERS**

Another consistent evaluation finding pertains to Dreamers' satisfaction with the "I Have a Dream" program and the quality of adult relationships. Specifically, Dreamers reports of both the program/staff and their mentors are overwhelmingly positive and are instrumental to Dreamers' academic success and well-being, above and beyond that which is due to participating in program activities.

#### **Satisfaction with Mentors and Staff:**

- 97% report that their mentor cares about them.
- 68% report that because they have a mentor, they try harder in school.
- 96% report that their mentor tells them when they do a good job.

#### **Satisfaction with "I Have a Dream" Program and Staff:**

- 98% report that their Project Coordinator expects them to try hard and do their best.
- 93% report that "I Have a Dream" is a supportive and caring environment.
- 95% report that they have an adult they can trust at "I Have a Dream".
- 94% report they are overall satisfied with "I Have a Dream".