

MEDIA FACT SHEET

Unexpected financial emergencies are one of the top reasons community college students drop out of school. Dreamkeepers is changing that.

About Dreamkeepers	Dreamkeepers helps community colleges keep students who are in need in school when they're faced with unexpected financial emergencies. Lumina Foundation for Education, the Walmart Foundation and the Kresge Foundation fund the Dreamkeepers program.
Measures of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community colleges average a 55 percent re-enrollment/graduation rate• For the 2008-2009 academic year, the re-enrollment/graduation rate for Dreamkeepers recipients was 84 percent
History and Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Established by Lumina Foundation for Education in 2004; they chose Scholarship America to administer the program• Dreamkeepers piloted at 11 schools; Walmart funding added seven more• Since 2004, nearly \$1.1 million in financial assistance has been provided to more than 2,500 students in 18 schools• Average grant is \$523<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Most common uses are housing, utilities, meals, transportation/car repairs and child care• Continued funding by Lumina and Walmart, along with a generous grant from the Kresge Foundation, will bring the Dreamkeepers program to 14 more schools in 2010
Marketplace Factors: Why Keeping Students in School Matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completing an education program beyond high school is essential, especially in today's economy.• Despite high participation and enrollment rates, the U.S. has the worst degree-completion rate among developed nations.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Source: "Second to None in Attainment, Discovery, and Innovation: The National Agenda for Higher Education," by the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), 2008.• To match today's leading nations (Canada and Japan), 55 percent of our young adults must have an associate or bachelors degree.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Source: "Second to None in Attainment, Discovery, and Innovation: The National Agenda for Higher Education," by the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), 2008.• The current number of Americans ages 25-64 with a 2- or 4-year college degree is 39 percent.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Education at a Glance 2009
Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kresge Foundation -- www.kresge.org• Lumina Foundation for Education -- www.luminafoundation.org• Walmart Foundation -- walmartstores.com/communitygiving/203.aspx
About Scholarship America	Scholarship America® is a national education service organization that mobilizes support for students getting into and graduating from college. Since 1958, Scholarship America has awarded more than \$2 billion in scholarship assistance to more than 1.7 million students. More information is available at www.scholarshipamerica.org .

Molly's Success Story

Molly thought her family was well on the way to a secure future. Her husband's trucking business was doing well, and she started taking classes at the local community college, the first step in her dream of becoming a nurse. Shortly after Molly decided to go to school full time, the price of gasoline skyrocketed. Her husband's six-day-a-week haul fell to one day if he was lucky.

Molly felt like her education had become a hardship for her family, and she considered dropping out. Fortunately, Molly applied for emergency assistance through Scholarship America's Dreamkeepers program, which provided enough support so she could finish her degree.

Dreamkeepers Colleges**California:**

Contra Costa College, San Pablo

Florida:

Broward College, Fort Lauderdale

Hillsborough Community College, Tampa

Miami Dade College, Miami

Illinois:

Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills

Ohio:

Lorain County Community College, Elyria

Maryland:

Prince George's Community College, Largo

University of Maryland, College Park

New Mexico:

Central New Mexico Community College, Albuquerque

Santa Fe Community College, Santa Fe

North Carolina:

Durham Technical Community College, Durham

Martin Community College, Williamston

Wayne Community College, Goldsboro

Pennsylvania:

Westmoreland County Community College, Youngwood

Texas:

Coastal Bend College, Beeville

Galveston College, Galveston

Virginia:

Mountain Empire Community College, Big Stone Gap

Patrick Henry Community College, Martinsville

Media Contacts

Kellie Due Weiland

kweiland@beehivepr.biz

651-789-2239

Ayme Zemke

azemke@beehivepr.biz

651-789-2235

Janine Fugate

jfugate@scholarshipamerica.org

952-830-7307