

Hillsborough Community College Dreamkeepers Emergency Scholarship Fund

Purpose: Dreamkeepers (DK) Emergency Scholarship Fund makes it possible for HCC students to stay in school in the face of emergencies that might otherwise cause them to drop out. An emergency is defined as an unexpected situation, which demands immediate attention of the student (not an ongoing expense) that significantly interferes with the student's ability to stay enrolled in school. HCC is one of the original (11) community colleges throughout the U.S. that participated in the initial implementation of the DK fund.

Eligibility Criteria: Students must have financial need, be in good academic standing, be enrolled part- or full-time, have successfully completed 12 credit hours, agree to complete successfully the term in question, and provide written documentation of need (i.e. written estimate, or bill) at time of application and receipt within 10 business days of disbursement. The student may apply only once per academic year Full-time students may be awarded up to \$500.00. Part-time students (11 or less credit hours) may be awarded up to \$250.00. Dreamkeepers also provides students with financial planning tools and other resources that help them reach their educational and life goals.

Impact: Currently, the HCC Foundation Dreamkeepers Endowed (permanent) Fund has \$135,000, which generates \$6,750 (spendable) annually for assistance awards, in perpetuity. Since 2005, \$ 116,608 has been awarded to over 280 students to overcome financial barriers and stay in school.

Success Stories: Cynthia B. did everything right - registered early, submitted Financial Aid documents in early, and purchased textbooks well in advance of the first day of class at HCC. During the first day of class, however, she turned her back on her books for a few minutes, and when she turned around her \$70.00 math book was missing and she was unable to purchase another book. While she would have qualified for student loans, it would have taken too long to get the funds, and she would have fallen irrevocably behind in her class. She filled out a security report to document the loss. She also attached the report to a DK application form, her application was approved, and within a matter of days, she had a new math book to replace the one that was stolen.

Tara H. has been an HCC student for a few years – taking classes part time steadily every semester without fail. In the spring term, a car struck her from behind while she was walking. Along with bumps and bruises, she suffered back and neck injuries that required physical therapy. She could not afford to pay for the emergency room visit, plus her therapy sessions and purchase her books. She was in a position of having to make a choice between continuing her education, or getting the medical care she needed. DK was approved for her to help defray enough of the medical costs that she could secure her books and continue her education.

Goal: The HCC Foundation has been selected for the opportunity to increase the Dreamkeepers Endowment Fund to \$217K, which would generate more than \$10K annually, in perpetuity. Our goal is to raise \$15,000 this year and \$11,250 next year in order to secure a \$15K match from Scholarship America. A program from the state of Florida would match these amounts leveraging the funds further.

Request: Please contribute to the HCC Dreamkeepers Fund to help students achieve their goal of completing their education. You can make a gift online by credit card at <http://www.hccfl.edu/dao/foundation.aspx> (click on Donate Now); or mail a check to the HCC Foundation, 39 Columbia Drive #719, Tampa FL 33606. Thank you in advance for your support.