

ANDREA COCKRUM
Chief Executive Officer
Fulfillment Fund



Andrea Cockrum joined the Fulfillment Fund in 1988 as its first full-time Executive Director, and later CEO. Her vision, commitment and passion for helping promising but economically disadvantaged youth helped grow the Fulfillment Fund from a grass-roots, volunteer organization into a national model for college-access programs that provide mentoring, classroom-outreach, college counseling and college scholarships.

Under her leadership, the Fulfillment Fund received various prestigious awards and recognition including the "*Spirit of Mentoring Award*" by the California Mentor Initiative as the best community-based mentoring program in the State of California. The organization was also recognized by the White House as one of 177 "*Promising Practices*" according to the President's Initiative on Race. The organization is also cited as a model program in a U. S. Department of Education publication entitled "*Yes, You Can*", designed to assist organizations and schools across the country in developing their own mentor program.

Ms. Cockrum was recognized in 1999 by the Los Angeles Dodgers as a DODGER HOMETOWN HERO, was one of the recipients of the 2000 Women of Achievement Awards presented by the Century City Chamber of Commerce, received special recognition by The League of Women Voters in 2001, received a "Treasures of Los Angeles" award from the Central City Association of Los Angeles in 2001 and a Board Leadership Award of Excellence from the National College Access Network in 2007. All of these awards recognized her work and her lifelong commitment to underserved young people. In receiving these honors, Ms. Cockrum said, "My greatest joy comes from being able to make a difference in so many lives and to know this work will continue." She has emphasized that when students graduate from college they give back to the community by becoming mentors themselves. Helping students understand the importance of helping others is a legacy of which she is most proud.

Prior to the Fulfillment Fund, Ms. Cockrum served 10 years at UCLA as the Executive Director of the Early Intervention Program for Developmentally Handicapped Children and the Special Preventive Research and New Technology Program. For 13 years preceding her UCLA tenure, she worked in management with United Airlines. There she specialized in in-flight service and industrial and labor relations.

Andrea brought a level of corporate efficiency and professionalism rarely seen in the nonprofit world to the Fulfillment Fund. Because of the success of the Fulfillment Fund's programs and calls for assistance from other communities, Ms. Cockrum helped lead the Fulfillment Fund in creating a college access model that can be replicated in communities across the country within the next few years.

Ms. Cockrum continues her commitment to non-profit leadership as a consultant to the Sun Valley Writer's conference, a member of the Conductor's Circle of The Harmony Project, President of the Board of New Designs Charter School and as a board member of Playwright's Arena and A Thousand Joys. In 2008, the Fulfillment Fund honored Andrea with a special Inspiration Award given in tribute of her legacy to the youth of Los Angeles.

Learn more about the Fulfillment Fund at www.fulfillment.org or call (323) 939-9707