

## **Skoll Foundation Selects College Summit as a Top Social Entrepreneur**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, D.C.; April 2006 – College Summit is pleased to announce it is the recipient of a \$1,515,000 award from The Skoll Foundation to serve two new communities and 28,000 additional students over the next three years.

The award is one of sixteen Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship presented by the Skoll Foundation to honor the most innovative and effective approaches to resolving critical social issues. The Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship are the Foundation's flagship award program.

College Summit was the lone education organization to be selected for the 2006 award and also received the largest single grant amount.

“We are honored to be a recipient of this prestigious award,” said J.B. Schramm, Founder and CEO of College Summit. “The Skoll Foundation is an organization that is truly on the vanguard of the social enterprise movement—and this substantial, multi-year investment will be instrumental in growing our scalable national model for increased college access.”

College Summit is a decade-old nonprofit increasing the college enrollment rate of low-income students across the country, recently recognized by Fast Company magazine and Monitor Group as one of the top 25 groups "changing the world." The organization has served over 10,000 students to date, and 6,000 during the '05-'06 school year alone, through intensive summer workshops and a curriculum-based program in schools. 79% of College Summit workshop participants enroll in college (compared to a national average for low-income students of 46%), and 80% stay in college.

“College Summit reflects the essence of a Skoll social entrepreneur: a practical innovator who resolves social problems and builds civil society's infrastructure and effectiveness,” said Sally Osberg, President and CEO of the Skoll Foundation. “Each organization in our portfolio of Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship is tackling a complex social problem in order to promote healthy, sustainable communities. College Summit is no exception. Together with our other social entrepreneurs, College Summit represents an incredibly powerful force for systemic social change.”

The competitive Skoll Awards were personally presented by Skoll Foundation Chairman Jeff Skoll on March 30 at the third annual Skoll World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship at Oxford University in England. The World Forum convened a global community of

outstanding practitioners and thought leaders in social entrepreneurship to set the future agenda for visionaries who want to transform society.

### About the Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship

The Skoll Foundation is awarding \$13 million in three-year investments to recipients of the 2006 Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship. The Awards honor and provide support for established organizations led by social entrepreneurs who are applying innovative and effective approaches to resolve critical social issues around the world.

The Skoll Awards are designed to advance solutions to critical social challenges of our time and recognize programs effecting positive and measurable change in six issue categories: tolerance and human rights, health, environmental sustainability, economic and social equity, institutional responsibility, and peace and security. Each year's recipients are identified through an open competitive process that honors social entrepreneurs whose work has already demonstrably improved the lives and circumstances of marginalized, disadvantaged or disenfranchised populations throughout the world.

Skoll Award funding supports the expansion and larger-scale replication of awardee programs.

The organizations receiving three-year 2006 Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship through the open competition have all proved effective at a local or regional scale and are poised to expand to a national or multinational scale.

“Idealism and money alone, while valuable, can't resolve the highly complex root causes of poverty, disease, illiteracy or strife that plague so many areas of the world today,” said Osberg. “Effecting true and lasting change also demands a deep understanding of the many forces shaping a community, endless ingenuity and, finally, perhaps most importantly, a clear-eyed practicality.”

“As we have done in preceding years, we've cast our net across the globe to find the world's most effective social entrepreneurs. Each organization in our portfolio of Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship is tackling a complex social problem and is poised to expand that model to a new level.”

### About the Skoll Foundation

The Skoll Foundation advances systemic change to benefit communities around the world by investing in, connecting and celebrating social entrepreneurs—individuals dedicated to pioneering new solutions that result in lasting improvements to complex social problems. The Skoll Foundation invests in social entrepreneurs through the Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship. It connects them through Social Edge, an online community at [www.socialedge.org](http://www.socialedge.org) and via the annual Skoll World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship at the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at Oxford University. It

celebrates social entrepreneurs through projects such as The New Heroes, a public television documentary series that tells 12 dramatic stories of social entrepreneurs who bring innovative, empowering solutions to intractable social problems around the world. For more information, visit [www.skollfoundation.org](http://www.skollfoundation.org).

FOR MORE INFORMATION on College Summit and its scalable model for college access across low-income communities, contact Tom Harrison at [tharrison@collegesummit.org](mailto:tharrison@collegesummit.org) or Maia Blankenship at [mblankenship@collegesummit.org](mailto:mblankenship@collegesummit.org). To learn more about the Skoll Foundation, contact Laura Vais at [lvais@skollfoundation.org](mailto:lvais@skollfoundation.org).