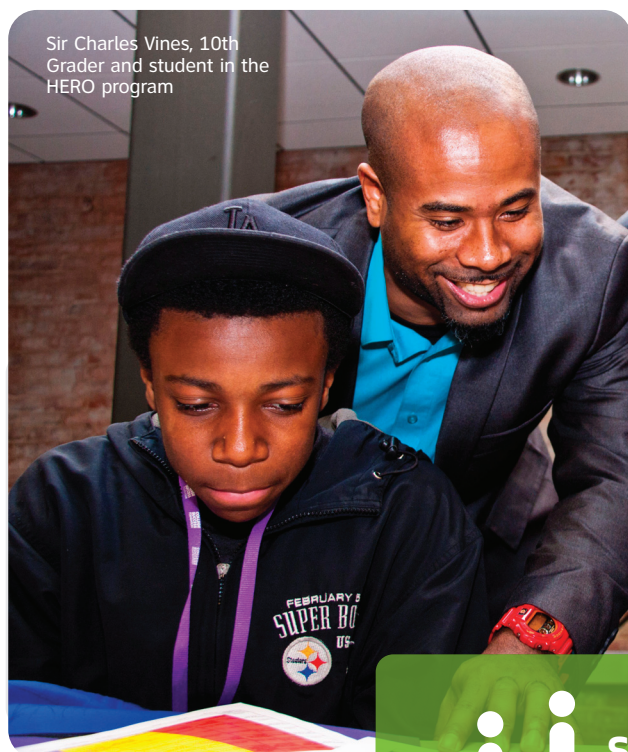# AT&T Aspire: College Success Foundation

Graduating Students, One Community at a Time

Program Description:

The College Success Foundation (CSF) was established to provide support services for underserved, low-income students to achieve academic success, complete high school, graduate from college, become self-sufficient and reach their full potential in life. In 2005, CSF created the Higher Education Readiness Opportunity (HERO) program to accomplish these goals and attack the problem of inadequate numbers of minority males applying for scholarships and attending college.

Currently the HERO program serves 800 male and female students in 7th through 10th grades in high schools and feeder middle schools in Washington state and the District of Columbia. AT&T funding will allow the expansion of the program to students in four high schools in the greater Seattle metro area identified as above the norm in dropout rates by the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instructions. More specifically, funding will be used to hire three HERO advisors to work directly with the 320 academically challenged 9th and 10th grade students, providing constant individual support and monitoring while targeting improvement in their academic and social performance.

Sir Charles Vines, 10th Grader and student in the HERO program

Students are identified for the program by school administrators based on low grades, truancy, disciplinary issues and high potential for school dropout. Some of the activities provided to HERO students include academic monitoring, class scheduling, advocacy, parent involvement, PSAT and SAT prep, career awareness opportunities and life skills development. With over 11 years of proven experience, CSF has helped more than 2,400 low-income students graduate with at least a baccalaureate degree.

"The HERO program has motivated me to take school more seriously, better my grades and pursue a higher education at a 4-year university."

Brianna Ogunsemi, a junior at Lincoln High School in Tacoma. Brianna has been in the HERO program since the 7th grade.

Students: 320

Funding: $300,000