

## **ANDREA COCKRUM**

Founding Chief Executive Officer  
Fulfillment Fund



Andrea Cockrum joined the Fulfillment Fund in 1988 as Executive Director and its first full-time employee, and later, founding Chief Executive Officer. Her vision, commitment and passion for helping promising but economically disadvantaged youth helped grow the Fulfillment Fund from a grassroots volunteer organization into a national model for college access programs that can be replicated in communities across the country.

During her extraordinary leadership of the Fulfillment Fund, tens of thousands of young people from underserved communities have overcome significant obstacles to finish high school and become the first in their family to achieve a life-changing college education. In 2011, 91% of Fulfillment Fund students graduated high school within four years, more than twice the rate of their peers, and 93% went on to college.

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

Cockrum has received numerous awards and accolades in recognition of her exceptional work and lifelong commitment to young people, including a Board Leadership Award of Excellence from the National College Access Network in 2007, a "Treasures of Los Angeles" award from the Central City Association of Los Angeles in 2001 and recognition as a Los Angeles Dodgers "Hometown Hero" in 1999.

She has served on the Los Angeles Mayor's Education Advisory Council and the council's Subcommittee on Strategic Alliances, working with many public and private organizations to provide mentoring, tutoring and quality education to thousands of Los Angeles students.

As she has shared throughout her tenure at the Fulfillment Fund, the future opportunities for our young people become more limited every year. The delivery of educational services has become worse instead of better. It is imperative that our greater community support the efforts of all young people to have successful and contributing lives.

Prior to the Fulfillment Fund, Cockrum served for a decade as Executive Director of UCLA's Early Intervention Program for Developmentally Handicapped Children and the Special Preventive Research and New Technology Program.

A longtime philanthropist and community supporter with a passion for education, music and the arts, Cockrum is President of the Board of New Designs Charter Schools and serves on the boards of the Playwright's Arena and A Thousand Joys. Additionally, she is a member of the Conductor's Circle of The Harmony Project.

Learn more about the Fulfillment Fund at [www.fulfillment.org](http://www.fulfillment.org) or call (323) 939-9707