Rescuing Inner Sity Kids (RISK)

Focused on providing exceptional educational opportunities to all children regardless of their backgrounds, I founded a nonprofit community-based organization known as Rescuing Inner Sity Kids (RISK), which operated out of Paterson, New Jersey. RISK focused on the development of middle school-aged children through mentorship and after-school tutoring services. Serving as RISK’s director from 1994 to 2001, the Russ Berrie Foundation recognized me for my work with the organization and my commitment to making a difference in the lives of children in need. During this period, I was also studying for my Master of Arts in Educational Administration and Supervision and teaching physical science, chemistry, and physics at John F. Kennedy High School in Paterson, New Jersey. In addition, during the summers I ran the Paterson Residential Education Program that housed 70 Paterson High School students at Montclair State University, encouraging the pursuit of higher education. Eighty percent of the participants in this program continued on to college after graduating from high school. Encouraging the educational development of all youth has been a primary focus of my career. I was also the founder and director of the Paterson Young Men’s Association and participated in Indiana University’s African American Brotherhood Program, a mentoring organization. Empowering adults to pursue higher education, I taught Adult General Education Development classes out of the Fletcher Place Community Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. In pursuit of my educational goals, I maintain active roles in a number of organizations, including the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Middle School Association, and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. I am honored to have worked with students from around the country, inspiring them to pursue a brighter future through continued education. I look forward to finding new opportunities to continue serving those most in need.