Ron Brown Scholar Program and DreamWakers Partner for Black History Month

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA & NEW YORK, NY (February 3, 2017) — Education technology nonprofit DreamWakers is pleased to announce its partnership with the Ron Brown Scholar Program in honor of Black History Month. Each week in February, DreamWakers will host a “flashchat” featuring Ron Brown Scholar alumni. A “flashchat” is a 45-minute online session using free video technology such as Google Hangouts that enables students to interact with DreamWakers’ professional role models. These virtual conversations provide students with meaningful opportunities to think about their personal potential and career possibilities, practice public speaking skills, and gain exposure to new people and opportunities across their community, the country, and the world.

The mission of the Ron Brown Scholar Program is to advance higher education and improve the lives of community and public service-minded and intellectually gifted African Americans and accelerate their progress into impactful leadership roles and opportunities. According to studies from the U.S. Department of Education, the rate of college graduation for African American students is just 44 percent, compared to a rate of 66 percent for White students. Within the Ron Brown Scholar Program, the graduation rate is 99 percent, with 58 percent of scholars attending Ivy League universities. “The Ron Brown Scholar Program is delighted to partner with DreamWakers for Black History Month,” said Ron Brown Scholar Program President and Executive Director Michael Mallory. “Many of our Scholars have overcome incredible obstacles in their journey to becoming the leaders they are today. Having the opportunity to share personal and professional lessons learned along the way with young students across the country - many of whom are growing up in communities very similar to those in which our scholars came of age, makes this public service partnership particularly meaningful.”

Throughout Black History Month DreamWakers will virtually connect Ron Brown Scholar alumni to predominately African American classrooms in New Orleans, LA; Newark, NJ; Spokane, WA; Selma, AL; and the Bronx, NY. The featured speakers are African American leaders who work in a variety of industries including law, finance, and innovation.

"Our team feels privileged to have the opportunity to collaborate with the Ron Brown Scholar Program. It's an honor to connect classrooms across the country to such exemplary African American role models throughout Black History Month," said DreamWakers Co-Founder and CEO Monica Gray Logothetis. "Through the real-world interaction that take place in each DreamWakers flashchat, students gain priceless insights that will help them get from their desk today to that dream job tomorrow."
About The Ron Brown Scholar Program
The Ron Brown Scholar Program honors the legacy of Ronald H. Brown through a selective scholarship program that advances higher education for community-minded and intellectually gifted African Americans. The Ron Brown Scholar Program competitively awards Ron Brown Scholars four-year $40,000 scholarships to the most talented and economically-challenged high school seniors who demonstrate a keen interest in public service, community engagement, business entrepreneurship and global citizenship – the four pillars of the late Ronald H. Brown’s mission to uplift people of all races, cultures and ethnicities – especially our disadvantaged youth.

For more information on The Ron Brown Scholar Program: www.ronbrown.org/

About DreamWakers
DreamWakers is a nonprofit organization that harnesses technology to connect classroom lessons to real-world careers. By virtually linking exceptional professionals in the public and private sectors to 4th - 12th grade high-need classrooms where over 50% of the student body is on free or reduced lunch, DreamWakers helps narrow the opportunity gap that exists between public schools and the workforce. Each virtual session, called a “flashchat,” lasts 45 minutes and is designed to shed light on the real-world applicability of course lessons, while at the same time empowering students to prepare for personal and professional opportunities.

For more information on DreamWakers: www.dreamwakers.org

Social Media Ron Brown Scholars Black History Month Series Hashtag: #IHaveADream2017

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