



## ***COLLEGE SUCCESS FOUNDATION UNITES WITH KORU TO SUPPORT GRITTY AND DIVERSE STUDENTS***

### ***Seattle-based Education Innovators Tackle Employment Issues Facing College Grads***

**Seattle, WA (Oct. 17, 2014)** –Today Koru ([www.joinkoru.com](http://www.joinkoru.com)), a company focused on transforming the college-to-career landscape, and College Success Foundation (CSF), which supports underserved, low-income students in finishing high school and graduating from college, announce a partnership to enable college graduates of color to buck the national trend of unemployment and underemployment. Together, these Washington state-based organizations will help CSF Scholars land great professional jobs that enable them to make a difference in their lives and in their communities. Three CSF Alumni, Deka Mohammed, Justin Oba, and Sherese Hooper, have already completed Koru and successfully landed highly sought-after jobs at PayScale, Trupanion, and zulily, respectively.

Koru's highly selective programs accept college seniors and recent graduates who exhibit high levels of grit, analytical rigor, and the ability to drive business impact. Intentionally designed to develop the competencies that high-growth, innovative companies seek, Koru's programs give recent college graduates the relevant skills, experience, and network to be workplace-ready and, furthermore, places them inside some of the most exciting companies in the US.

CSF has committed to identifying and supporting a diverse set of potential applicants for the Koru program. Over 4,000 CSF scholars have completed a bachelor's or associate degree, and over 4,200 are currently enrolled in postsecondary programs. Many CSF Scholars identify themselves as students of color and the first in their families to attend college, and all display a high level of determination.

"A partnership with the College Success Foundation is a natural fit for Koru. Our organizations share an equal commitment to helping a diverse group of students overcome obstacles and create opportunities for themselves and their families," said Kristen Hamilton, cofounder and CEO of Koru. "We're excited to work with the CSF team to tackle the issues of unemployment and underemployment."

"This new partnership with Koru enables the College Success Foundation to provide another critical layer of support to our Scholars, to help launch them into flourishing careers," said Yolanda Watson Spiva, Ph.D., president and CEO of the College Success

Foundation. “We are thrilled to be working with Koru in cultivating programs that will amplify opportunities for Scholars’ success.”

Admission to fall programs in Seattle and San Francisco has been highly selective and Koru will expand to Boston in January 2015. For more information on Koru and complete details on upcoming programs, future locations, and application deadlines, please visit [www.joinkoru.com](http://www.joinkoru.com).

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## **About Koru**

Koru is transforming the college-to-career landscape with an immersive, transformational experience designed to quickly make recent college graduates workplace-ready with relevant skills, and place them inside high-growth work environments. Koru was founded by veteran entrepreneurs; Kristen Hamilton, and Josh Jarett and has raised \$4.57 million in funding from Maveron, Battery Ventures, First Round Capital, Andreessen Horowitz, and Nas’ Queensbridge Venture Partners. Headquartered in Seattle, Koru runs employer-embedded programs with partners like LinkedIn, zulily, Payscale, Trupanion, and REI. Koru’s Thirteen Founding College Partners include Bates, Brown, Georgetown, Pomona, USC, and Williams College. For more information on Koru and details on upcoming programs and partners, please visit [www.joinkoru.com](http://www.joinkoru.com).

## **About the College Success Foundation**

Founded in 2000, the College Success Foundation provides the unique integrated system of supports and scholarships to inspire underserved, low-income students to finish high school, graduate from college and succeed in life. For more information about the College Success Foundation, please visit [collegesuccessfoundation.org](http://collegesuccessfoundation.org).

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