

CSCTFL 2012

Touch the World

Keynote Speaker: Linda Mornell



Linda Mornell, Founder and former President of Summer Search

Linda is the founder of Summer Search, a program created to offer high potential but very low-income students life-changing educational, service and leadership opportunities. Summer Search was inspired by the experiences of Linda's three children who gained confidence and maturity from summer experiential education

programs ranging from wilderness expeditions in the US to drama programs in England and community service programs Haiti. Watching her children gain confidence and maturity, Linda developed a special interest in these programs as positive and sometimes corrective emotional experiences for other teenagers.

Linda started Summer Search in 1990 with no experience in the non-profit sector. She began with 14 students in San Francisco but quickly understood that a single intervention is not especially effective. Summer Search became an ongoing mentoring and support program for students throughout high school and beyond while offering two summer scholarship opportunities. 100% of Summer Search students graduate from high school and 89% from college - becoming future role models and leaders from school and communities that need it most. Today, Linda's passion and desire to change the lives of students has blossomed into a national organization that served 1,700 students in 2010 from the Bay Area, Boston, New York, Seattle and Philadelphia.

Originally from Muncie, Indiana, Linda received her RN in Indianapolis and studied psychiatric nursing in San Francisco. From 1972 to 1989, Linda was in private practice with her psychiatrist husband counseling families and adolescents.