

## **KEAN UNIVERSITY TO HOST NEW JERSEY'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL HOOPS AT SFIC FESTIVAL**

**KEAN UNIVERSITY (UNION, NJ)**- Kean University will host the 2018 Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC) Basketball Festival. The annual festival featuring some of New Jersey's best high school basketball teams will be held on Sunday, January 7, 2018, at Kean University's Hardwood Arena.

2018 is the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the SFIC Basketball Festival. The one-day tournament includes boys' basketball teams from Bergen Catholic, Hudson Catholic, Immaculate Conception (Montclair), Roselle Catholic, St. Benedict's Prep, St. Mary of the Assumption, St. Joseph's (Montvale), St. Peter's Prep, Trenton Catholic and Union Catholic, and girls' basketball teams from Oak Knoll and Roselle Catholic.

Several SFIC alumni currently play in the NBA, including Boston Celtics guard Kyrie Irving (formerly St. Patrick's, now The Patrick School), Cleveland Cavaliers guard J.R. Smith (St. Benedict's Prep) and New York Knicks forward Lance Thomas (St. Benedict's Prep).

Tickets for the 2018 SFIC Basketball Festival are available by calling (973) 497-4279, or visit [www.sfichoops.com](http://www.sfichoops.com) for more information.

### ***ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR INNER-CITY CHILDREN (SFIC)***

The Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC) was founded in 1983 by Archbishop Emeritus Peter L. Gerety as the Fund for Educational Advancement. SFIC is a non-profit organization funded by corporations, foundations and individual donors who wish to invest in the future of economically disadvantaged children living in Newark, Jersey City, Elizabeth and the neighboring communities. The fund has made an impact on the lives of thousands of low-income inner-city children. Under the direction of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Director, SFIC has been able to provide more than 50,000 students with more than \$41 million in partial tuition scholarships.

In 1999, a partnership was created with the Children's Scholarship Fund (CSF), a national non-profit organization, which increased the number of scholarships SFIC has been able to provide significantly. With matching funds provided by CSF, scholarship programs expanded in Newark, Jersey City and Elizabeth with dramatic results.

Most scholarship recipients are African-American or Hispanic children from inner-city school districts in Northern New Jersey. The scholarships enable these students to attend parochial schools in Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union counties and are intended to provide them with the tools for independence and success.