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MAYOR MENINO ANNOUNCES BOSTON SELECTED FOR NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP TO RAISE POSTSECONDARY ATTAINMENT

BOSTON – Today [Lumina Foundation](#) announced that Boston will be among the first 20 cities in America to partner with Lumina Foundation in a mobilization effort designed to increase the number of local residents with postsecondary credentials. As a part of this effort, Lumina is making available up to \$200,000 over the next three years to [Success Boston](#), an unprecedented collaboration between [the City of Boston](#), [the Boston Public Schools](#), the [Boston Foundation](#), the [University of Massachusetts Boston](#), the [Boston Private Industry Council](#), numerous area nonprofits, and nearly 40 Massachusetts colleges and universities working together to ensure that BPS students are “getting ready, getting in and getting through” higher education.

This collaborative effort will work with Lumina to establish a community-wide attainment goal for Boston and support Success Boston efforts to help achieve it. Partners will have access to significant technical and planning assistance, data tools, flexible funding and guidance from a network of national thought leaders.

“The Success Boston initiative is already making a measurable difference in the number of Boston Public Schools graduates moving into and through higher education,” said Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino. “This funding will help further our critical efforts to ensure all Boston students are getting the education they need to succeed in the workforce and throughout their lives.”

Boston was selected for this national partnership because of Success Boston’s demonstrated impact on student success. The national partnership with Lumina will amplify existing momentum by supporting the development of an action plan to increase the percentage of local residents with high quality certificates, associate degrees and bachelor’s degrees.

Success Boston offers a unique collaboration that enhances students’ academic preparation for college, support their efforts to make the transition to higher education and ensure they receive the supports necessary to earn a degree prepared to enter the workforce. Its goal is to raise the college completion rate for Boston Public Schools graduates to 70 percent for the BPS Class of 2011.

“Meeting the Mayor’s ambitious goals for Boston students is a critical part of raising the overall number of adults in the city with the postsecondary credentials to gain and keep the jobs they need to strengthen the city as a whole,” said Paul Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation. “This funding provides critical support for Success Boston as a part of an overall strategy to raise the number of Boston adults with certificates and degrees.”

“Dozens of colleges and universities across Massachusetts have committed to working toward the objectives of Success Boston,” said UMass Boston Chancellor J. Keith Motley. “We are pleased to welcome the Lumina Foundation as a partner in our efforts of building an educated citizenry and thank them for their significant support.”

“Research shows a direct correlation between thriving cities and education beyond high school,” said [Jamie Merisotis](#), president and chief executive officer of Lumina. “Increased attainment delivers stronger local economies, greater individual earning power and better quality of life. Every community in America wants that, and we’ve designed this work to give leaders in Boston and beyond the tools they need to be successful.”

Through the initiative, Success Boston will be eligible for an allocation of \$200,000 from Lumina over a three-year period. The allocation will be tied to the achievement of goals and the overall effort connects to [Goal 2025](#), a national goal to increase the percentage of Americans with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by the year 2025. The guidance offered to Boston and other cities by national partners will be a crucial part of the movement.

“This partnership model is a landmark opportunity for communities,” said Jeff Edmondson, managing Director of Strive Together in Cincinnati. “These cities will have the opportunity to work arm-in-arm with a national thought-leader to identify and build upon what is already working to improve higher education attainment rates in their own backyards.”

Project leaders from Boston and the other 19 cities have already begun to participate in webinars with the national partners to prepare them for the upcoming months of strategic planning. Community representatives and project leaders are currently in Indianapolis for a two-day kick-off convening and workshop being led by Lumina.

“It is our hope that Lumina’s support can fan the flames that are already burning in our partnership cities, improving results there and showing cities across the country how this gets done and just how transformational education can be for communities’ social, economic and civic strength,” said Haley Glover, strategy director at Lumina Foundation heading up this work.

The national thought-leadership organizations that (CITY) officials will have access to through this initiative include: [American Chamber of Commerce Executives](#), [Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions](#), [Brookings Institution](#), [Council for Adult and Experiential Learning](#), [DCA, Inc.](#), [Excelencia in Education](#), [The Harwood Institute](#), [Institute for Higher Education Policy](#), [National League of Cities](#), [OMG Center](#), [Say Yes to Education Foundation](#), [Strive Together](#), [Talent Dividend](#) and [United Way Worldwide](#).

The other cities joining Boston in the first cohort of this initiative include: Albuquerque, N.M.; Buffalo, N.Y.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Columbus, Ind.; Dayton, Ohio; Fort Wayne, Ind.; Greensboro, N.C.; Houston, Texas; Kalamazoo, Mich.; Louisville, Ky.; Memphis, Tenn.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Providence, R.I.; Quad Cities, Iowa/Ill.; San Antonio, Texas; Santa Ana, Calif.; South Seattle, Wash., and Syracuse, N.Y..

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About Lumina Foundation: Lumina Foundation is an independent, private foundation committed to increasing the proportion of Americans with high-quality degrees, certificates and other credentials to 60 percent by 2025. Lumina’s outcomes-based approach focuses on helping to design and build an accessible, responsive and accountable higher education system while fostering a national sense of urgency for action to achieve Goal 2025. For more information, log on to: www.luminafoundation.org

A video explanation of the initiative can be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zqRDUFu1GQ>

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