

WHO WE ARE

Lumina Foundation for Education is a private, independent foundation established in Indianapolis in August 2000. We employ 46 staff members and have invested assets in excess of \$1 billion. This total ranks Lumina among the nation's top 40 private foundations.

WHAT WE DO

Lumina is committed to enrolling and graduating more students from college. In fact, we are the nation's largest foundation dedicated exclusively to increasing students' access to and success in postsecondary education. **Our goal is to increase the percentage of Americans who hold high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by 2025.**

Lumina pursues this goal in three ways: by identifying and supporting **effective practice**, by encouraging effective **public policy**, and by using our communications and convening capacity to build **public will** for change. We have worked with and made grants to many colleges, universities, peer foundations, associations and other organizations that work to improve student access and outcomes across the nation. In 2009, we approved 136 grants — ranging from \$2,500 to more than \$4 million — for a total commitment of nearly \$58.1 million.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Increasing the level of higher education attainment is crucial to the health of the nation's economy, communities, and its democracy. The workplace now requires higher-level skills. In fact, according to noted labor economist Tony Carnevale, 63 percent of all jobs in the U.S. will require some level of postsecondary education by 2018.

If we hope to improve college attainment rates, and thus remain globally competitive, we must concentrate our efforts on serving America's 21st century students — including low-income students, first-generation students, students of color and adult learners. These populations are growing rapidly, and their success will largely determine our future success as a nation. By 2050, demographers say, minorities will constitute the majority of the U.S. population.

HOW WE WORK

For us to reach our goal of 60 percent degree attainment, three critical outcomes must be achieved:

1. Students must be prepared academically, financially and socially for success beyond high school.
2. Higher education attainment rates must be improved significantly through data-driven efforts that both improve student performance and ensure that students obtain the knowledge and skills that the workforce needs.
3. The postsecondary system must be more productive so that it can effectively serve more students.

To achieve each of these outcomes, Lumina must be a catalyst for change by identifying and supporting successful practices, through public policy advocacy, and by using our communications and convening capacity to build and help focus the public will for change.

OUR EFFORTS AND STRATEGIES

Our drive to reach the 60 percent attainment goal compels us to work simultaneously toward three critical outcomes: better pre-college **preparation**, greater support for student **success**, and improved **productivity** in higher education. Here are a few efforts Lumina is undertaking in each area:

Preparation: Lumina pursues several strategies and projects to foster a holistic approach to student preparation. For example, we seek to create a seamless connection between the K-12 and postsecondary systems by working to align standards and assessments. Through our KnowHow2GO effort and our partnership with Y-USA, we're helping to build a national network of advocacy organizations that provide high-quality student services and promote college preparation and improved financial access. We also support innovative ways to provide financial aid and promote college savings among low-income families.

Success: Lumina's efforts to support student success are numerous and varied. We're working with employers, community colleges and other organizations to increase degree and certificate attainment among adult learners by improving developmental education, promoting accelerated degree programs, and enhancing methods to assess the learning that adults gain outside the classroom. Our work with minority-serving institutions seeks to make MSIs "models of success" for serving students of color at *all* institutions. And our efforts to "tune" academic disciplines and establish national degree frameworks underscore Lumina's commitment to maintaining the quality of postsecondary credentials.

Productivity: In an effort to encourage approaches that are both comprehensive and innovative, Lumina has awarded more than \$9 million in multi-year productivity grants to seven states. These states are working to restructure their systems so that more institutions a.) are rewarded for fostering student success, not for enrollment b.) educate their students in new ways and places through the use of technology and other means, and c.) eliminate unnecessary spending and reinvest those savings in graduating more students.

A FEW OF OUR PARTNERS

- » Achieving the Dream Inc. (Chapel Hill, N.C.)
- » Central Indiana Community Foundation (Indianapolis, Ind.)
- » CEOs for Cities (Chicago, Ill.)
- » Excelencia in Education (Washington, D.C.)
- » Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce (Washington, D.C.)
- » HCM Strategists (Washington, D.C.)
- » LENS Ventures (San Francisco, Calif.)
- » National Academy of Sciences (Washington, D.C.)
- » Western Governors University (Salt Lake City, Utah)

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

- » Jamie P. Merisotis, president and chief executive officer
- » James Applegate, vice president for program development
- » J. David Maas, vice president for finance, chief financial officer and treasurer
- » Holiday Hart McKiernan, vice president for operations and general counsel
- » Juan (Kiko) Suarez, vice president for communications and external affairs
- » Samuel Cargile, vice president for grantmaking
- » Dewayne Matthews, vice president for policy and strategy

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