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Lincoln Financial Foundation Continues Vital Support to Help Low-Income Students in NH Succeed

A third year of support for CCNH's VISTA program opens doors for students and strengthens communities across New Hampshire.

Bedford, NH, December 1, 2016—As part of its dedication to narrowing the achievement gap in American education, Lincoln Financial Foundation will provide a third year of support for the AmeriCorps VISTA program administered by Campus Compact for New Hampshire (CCNH). CCNH VISTAs work in campus and community programs designed to increase economic opportunity by helping low-income students enroll and succeed in college. By building academic and social support structures, these VISTAs help students from underrepresented groups prepare for success in high school, college, and beyond.

“Lincoln Financial Foundation is pleased to continue its support of CCNH’s VISTA program, which has had a demonstrated impact on the lives of low-income students, their families, and their communities,” says Byron Champlin, the foundation’s New Hampshire program officer. “This work aligns with Lincoln Financial’s strong focus on helping individuals build a strong foundation for the future and on improving the quality of life in our communities.”

With Lincoln Financial’s support, CCNH’s VISTAs have helped thousands of low-income and first-generation college students across the state. Last year these VISTAs leveraged 750 volunteers who provided 130,000 hours of service. The VISTAs also directly supported more than 4,000 low-income and other underrepresented students through tutoring, mentoring, extracurricular programs, and help with higher education enrollment.

According to CCNH Executive Director Debby Scire, the VISTAs are putting in place sustainable systems to improve long-term outcomes. “In addition to directly aiding promising students, these talented VISTAs are establishing innovative programs, creating new outreach channels, and building relationships that will make a lasting difference,” she says.

Following are just a few examples:

- At the Saint Anselm College Access Academy, Shannon LeBlanc put in place sustainable outreach mechanisms, including social media communication, relationships with middle

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schools to reach rising freshmen, and the new Access Academy Ambassador Program, which trains high school students to reach out to their peers. As a result, the Academy has been able to expand its program offerings and increase student enrollment by 25%.

- At Nashua Community College, Marcos Diaz developed a leadership curriculum that has been implemented in the Nashua School District's English Language Learner (ELL) Summer Program.
- At the Office of Cross-Cultural Education & English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) at NHTI, Concord's Community College, Ryan Acuna helped pilot a tutoring program in which he matches ESOL students with peer and community tutors. According to one staff member, "He has made a difference in the lives of many, many students whose economic situations and linguistic and cultural needs create barriers to accessible education."

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About Campus Compact for New Hampshire

Founded in 1997, Campus Compact for New Hampshire (CCNH) is a statewide consortium of college and university presidents and private-sector partners who are united in their commitment to the civic purposes of higher education. As part of a national coalition of college and university leaders, CCNH serves as a catalyst to integrate community service and civic responsibility throughout academic and student life. CCNH is part of the national Campus Compact organization, which encompasses 1,100 college and university presidents representing some 6 million students. For more information, see <http://www.compactnh.org>.

About Lincoln Financial Foundation

Lincoln Financial Foundation, established in 1962, is a nonprofit organization formed and supported by Lincoln Financial Group. The Foundation awards grants to more than 300 nonprofits each year that empower and improve the lives of many. Grants are made in the areas of youth education, human services, economic/workforce development, and the arts. Since 2006, Lincoln Financial Foundation has contributed more than \$4.1 million in grants and employee donation matches to New Hampshire nonprofits, including \$500,000 allocated in 2015.