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Lincoln Financial Foundation Extends Vital Support to Help Low-Income Students Succeed in School

A fourth year of support for CCNH's VISTA program opens opportunities for students and communities across New Hampshire.

Concord, NH, December 1, 2017—As part of its ongoing effort to strengthen communities by narrowing the education achievement gap, Lincoln Financial Foundation will provide a fourth year of support for one of New Hampshire's most well-established AmeriCorps VISTA programs. Campus Compact for New Hampshire (CCNH), which administers the program, places VISTAs with campus and community organizations where they work to help low-income students prepare for success in school, college, and beyond.

“CCNH's VISTA program has helped thousands of the state's most vulnerable students overcome barriers to academic success. Lincoln Financial Foundation is pleased to continue its support of the program, which has expanded opportunities not only for these students but also for their communities,” says Byron Champlin, the foundation's New Hampshire regional director for community and foundation relations. “This outcome aligns with Lincoln Financial's dedication to building vital communities—something that is intrinsic both to our values and to our work.”

With Lincoln Financial's support, CCNH's VISTAs work directly with low-income, first-generation, and other underrepresented students across the state while also recruiting and training additional volunteers. Last year these VISTAs helped more than 4,000 students through academic tutoring, mentoring, extracurricular programs, and college enrollment assistance. They also recruited 1,000 volunteers.

CCNH Executive Director Debby Scire notes that long-term support from the Lincoln Financial Foundation has led to an expanding cycle of success. “As our VISTAs put in place sustainable systems of support, they're able to reach more and more students,” she says. “In addition to providing direct aid to thousands of students, they're creating new systems and outreach channels, which are making a growing and lasting difference in their communities.”

The VISTAs work with students from elementary school through college. Following are just a few examples of how and where the CCNH VISTAs work:

Lincoln Financial Extends Vital Support for NH Students

- Southern New Hampshire University, which partners with a local elementary school to provide instruction to third graders, has been able to expand the program and add a college preparatory component through the work of Maggie Reilly. In addition to having college students teach hands-on science lessons in the classroom, the university now brings the third graders to campus for an extended tour, including lunch, a visit to the residence halls, and fun activities at the Athletics Complex. By making them comfortable on campus, the program shows students from an early age that college is in reach.
- As a part of the Multicultural Center at Manchester Community College, Glenn Fearnley was asked to help the Academic Success Center develop a pre-orientation program to give incoming students a jumpstart on preparing for college. Glenn oversaw the design of the program, including choosing workshops and creating a schedule for the three-day event. After completing the program, 100% of students surveyed said they would recommend the program to incoming students the following year.
- At NHTI, Concord's Community College, Kirsten Spooner served as the sole advisor for the Alternative Spring Break club, teaching students how to balance their time between fundraising and community service. With her leadership, the group was able to raise over \$3,000 and contribute more than 200 hours of community service to Concord and the surrounding areas. In addition to providing services and funding for communities, participating in effective campus-based service programs has been shown to improve college success, graduation rates, and long-term civic engagement.

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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.

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. In 2016 alone, Lincoln Financial Foundation awarded 129 education grants and corporate contributions totaling \$3 million.