



College Now

Greater Cleveland

Developing Tomorrow's Talent Today

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Cleveland Named U.S. Talent Hub ***Designation includes grant to increase educational attainment beyond high school***

INDIANAPOLIS, January 22, 2020 — Cleveland has been designated a Talent Hub by Lumina Foundation in partnership with The Kresge Foundation and will receive a \$125,000 grant to support local efforts to increase educational attainment.

Cleveland, Northeast Indiana, Southwest Florida, and Tampa Bay, along with 22 other Talent Hubs selected in [2017 and 2018](#), meet rigorous standards for creating environments that cultivate, attract, and retain talent, particularly among [today's students](#), many of whom are adults, Black, Hispanic, or Native American, students from low-income households, or the first in their families to go to college.

College Now has worked closely with Cleveland State University for three years to improve the outcomes for adult students, and will use the Talent Hub as a framework to emphasize that equity in educational access is key to the region's success and work to boost access, persistence, and completion for African American adult students. Working closely with Cleveland State University and Team NEO, the Talent Hub will also build on existing efforts to fill careers that are in-demand by creating adult-friendly internship pathways in Northeast Ohio with local employers and will facilitate solutions to inequities in the employment outcomes of African American graduates by educating participating employers.

"College Now has worked diligently with our partners for a number of years to find ways to increase the educational attainment of adult students in our community," said Lee Friedman, College Now's CEO. "We are thrilled to be named a Talent Hub and have the opportunity to deepen this work and ensure that African American adult students in the region have the resources and opportunities they need to be successful and contribute to our region's success."

"Cleveland State University is excited by this opportunity to partner with College Now and Team NEO to strengthen its ongoing efforts to serve African American adults in the Greater Cleveland area," said Peter Meiksins, Special Assistant to the Provost for Adult Learners.

"Talent Hubs are not just trying to be some of the best places to live, work, and learn," said [Jamie Merisotis](#), Lumina's president and CEO. "These communities are also taking today's students and transforming them into tomorrow's talent."

Talent Hubs are part of Lumina's \$13 million community mobilization strategy, which focuses on local and regional efforts to increase attainment in ways that can inform other communities.

"Each of these areas truly understands what it takes to pull together around shared goals," said [Danette Howard](#), Lumina's senior vice president and chief strategy officer. "We applaud the businesses, educators, and civic organizations working to create more ways for people to earn college degrees and certificates, industry certifications, and other quality credentials after high school."

About College Now Greater Cleveland, Inc.

College Now provides Greater Cleveland students with guidance and access to funds to prepare for and graduate from college. For 50 years, our goal has been to help students pursue educational opportunities that empower them to embark on rewarding careers and strengthen our community. College Now assists more than 29,000 students each year, delivering college and career

access advising, financial aid counseling, and scholarship and retention services in Greater Cleveland schools, in the College Now Resource Center and through community-based programs. For more information, visit www.collegenowgc.org.

About Lumina Foundation

Lumina Foundation is an independent, private foundation in Indianapolis that is committed to making opportunities for learning beyond high school available to all. Lumina envisions a system that is easy to navigate, delivers fair results, and meets the nation's need for talent through a broad range of credentials. The foundation's goal is to prepare people for informed citizenship and for success in a global economy.

About The Kresge Foundation

[The Kresge Foundation](http://www.kresge.org) was founded in 1924 to promote human progress. Today, Kresge fulfills that mission by building and strengthening pathways to opportunity for low-income people in American cities, seeking to dismantle structural and systemic barriers to equality and justice. Using a full array of grant, loan, and other investment tools, Kresge invests more than \$160 million annually to foster economic and social change. For more information, visit [Kresge.org](http://www.kresge.org).

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