



**United Way of Greater  
Richmond & Petersburg**



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## **Lumina Foundation designates Richmond as Talent Hub**

**- Nearly \$6 million in grants will support local efforts to increase attainment beyond high school -**

**Richmond, Va.** – Lumina Foundation has announced Richmond as one of 17 communities across the country designated as a Talent Hub. Among the other cities, Richmond earned this new designation by meeting rigorous standards for creating environments that attract, retain, and cultivate talent, particularly among [today's students](#), many of whom are people of color, the first in their families to go to college, and from low-income households.

Each Talent Hub focuses intensively on one of three populations that is critical to raising the nation's overall post-high school attainment level to 60 percent of working-age adults by 2025: 18-to-22-year-old students; older adults with college experience who stopped out before finishing their studies; or adults with no formal education beyond high school. Talent Hub cities are committed to eliminating [deep disparities in educational outcomes](#) among African-Americans, Hispanics, and American Indians, who fare poorly in contrast with white and Asian students.

The 17 communities designated as Talent Hubs are: Albuquerque, N.M.; Austin, Texas; Boston; Cincinnati; Columbus, Ind.; Dayton, Ohio; Denver; Fresno, Calif.; Los Angeles; Louisville, Ky.; Nashville, Tenn.; New York; Philadelphia; Racine, Wis.; Richmond, Va.; Shasta County, Calif.; and Tulsa, Okla.

"These communities are the creative and entrepreneurial engines that power our nation," said [Jamie Merisotis](#), president and CEO of Lumina Foundation. "For our country to meet growing demand for an educated workforce, we must bolster community-based efforts that are tightly focused on increasing the numbers of people in cities across the country with education and training beyond high school."

Each community designated as a Talent Hub will receive \$350,000 in grant funding over 42 months. Grant funding will support local efforts to educate more people, allowing community and postsecondary leaders to better meet the specific needs of residents. Lumina will provide these funds in partnership with the Kresge Foundation.

Bridging Richmond convened United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg, John Tyler Community College, Reynolds Community College and Virginia Commonwealth University. Together, this group developed Richmond's Talent Hub application and work plan.

Kresge's support for Talent Hubs comes from its national Education Program, which includes a focus on aligning and strengthening urban higher education ecosystems to help more low-income, under-represented and minority students gain access to and succeed in higher education.

"Educational attainment is an important component of the success of families and individuals in our region," James Taylor, President & CEO of United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg and Co-Chair of Bridging Richmond said. "I am excited about the Talent Hub designation and I look forward to working with regional partners to continue this critical work in the years ahead."

The Talent Hub designation serves both as an aspirational target for other cities to aim for and a platform from which cities designated as Talent Hubs can build. Talent Hubs are one outgrowth of Lumina's Community Partnerships for Attainment, which was in access of \$10 million of grants to 75 cities across the country. This partnership, which began in 2013, will continue to work directly with communities to expand educational opportunities beyond high school.

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Bridging Richmond is a cradle-to-career partnership anchored by Virginia Commonwealth University, United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg, The Community Foundation, and Robins Foundation. Partners are dedicated to improving equity in education and workforce participation as a means of reducing poverty, improving social mobility, and ensuring that the region is economically competitive. For more information, visit [www.bridgingrichmond.com](http://www.bridgingrichmond.com).

About the United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg Established in 1924, the United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg empowers individuals and addresses systemic problems to provide everyone with a clear path to success. The organization provides opportunities for those who care about their neighbors and the region's quality of life to give, volunteer and advocate for a better community. Learn more at [www.yourunitedway.org](http://www.yourunitedway.org).

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. For more information, visit [www.luminafoundation.org](http://www.luminafoundation.org).

The Kresge Foundation is a \$3.5 billion private, national foundation that works to expand opportunities in America's cities through grantmaking and social investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services, and community development in Detroit. In 2016, the Board of Trustees approved 474 grants totaling \$141.5 million, and made 14 social investment commitments totaling \$50.8 million. For more information, visit [www.kresge.org](http://www.kresge.org).

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