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SAN ANTONIO COMMITS TO ATTAINMENT GOAL – JOINS NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

SAN ANTONIO – Today [Lumina Foundation](#) announced that San Antonio will be among the first 20 cities in America to partner with Lumina Foundation in a mobilization effort designed to increase the number of local residents with postsecondary credentials. This collaborative effort will further the [SA2020](#) college attainment goal for San Antonio and support San Antonio partners in achieving that goal. Partners will have access to significant technical and planning assistance, data tools, flexible funding and guidance from a network of national thought leaders.

"We are committed to building on the partnerships forged between educators and industry leaders, like the latest provided by the Lumina Foundation, which will continue to increase students' connection to career opportunities in our city," said Richard Perez, President and CEO of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

San Antonio was selected to join in this mobilization effort because of the SA2020 community target that 50 percent of adults hold postsecondary degrees by 2020.

"San Antonio has embraced the reality that brainpower is the new currency of success in the 21st century global economy," said Mayor Julián Castro, Chairman of the SA2020 Board of Directors. "With the help of the Lumina Foundation, we expect to dramatically increase the gains SA2020 and its partners are already seeing in educational attainment and serve as a model for the rest of the country."

This new effort to integrate education and workforce efforts to increase post-secondary degrees builds upon the success of Diplomás, an existing Lumina-funded effort to increase the college attainment of Latino students. Based at the [San Antonio Education Partnership](#), which provides backbone support, it includes both Alamo Colleges and the University of Texas at San Antonio. This new effort will more fully connect the work of Diplomás and its educational partners to industry through key SA2020 partners including the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation, the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, Workforce Solutions Alamo, the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, United Way, and the P16Plus Council. Additionally, this new effort will take advantage of legislative changes in Texas emphasizing career pathways in high school.

"Research shows a direct correlation between thriving cities and education beyond high school," said [Jamie Merisotis](#), president and chief executive officer of Lumina. "Increased attainment delivers stronger local economies, greater individual earning power and better quality of life. Every community in America wants that, and we've designed this work to give leaders in San Antonio and beyond the tools they need to be successful."

Through the initiative, San Antonio will be eligible for an allocation of \$200,000 from Lumina over a three-year period. The allocation will be tied to the achievement of goals and how the overall effort connects to [Goal 2025](#), a national goal to increase the percentage of Americans with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by the year 2025. The guidance offered to San Antonio by national partners will be the most crucial part of the movement.

“This partnership model is a landmark opportunity for communities,” said Jeff Edmondson, managing Director of Strive Together in Cincinnati. “These cities will have the opportunity to work arm-in-arm with a national thought-leader to identify and build upon what is already working to improve higher education attainment rates in their own backyards.”

Project leaders from San Antonio and the other 19 cities have already begun to participate in webinars with the national partners to prepare them for the upcoming months of strategic planning. Community representatives and project leaders are currently in Indianapolis for a two-day kick-off convening and workshop being led by Lumina.

“It is our hope that Lumina’s support can fan the flames that are already burning in our partnership cities, improving results there and showing cities across the country how this gets done and just how transformational education can be for communities’ social, economic and civic strength,” said Haley Glover, strategy director at Lumina Foundation heading up this work.

The national thought-leadership organizations that San Antonio officials will have access to through this initiative include: [American Chamber of Commerce Executives](#), [Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions](#), [Brookings Institution](#), [Council for Adult and Experiential Learning](#), [DCA, Inc.](#), [Excelencia in Education](#), [The Harwood Institute](#), [Institute for Higher Education Policy](#), [National League of Cities](#), [OMG Center](#), [Say Yes to Education Foundation](#), [Strive Together](#), [Talent Dividend](#) and [United Way Worldwide](#).

The other cities joining San Antonio in the first cohort of this initiative include: Albuquerque, N.M.; Boston, Mass.; Buffalo, N.Y.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Columbus, Ind.; Dayton, Ohio; Fort Wayne, Ind.; Greensboro, N.C.; Houston, Texas; Kalamazoo, Mich.; Louisville, Ky.; Memphis, Tenn.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Providence, R.I.; Quad Cities, Iowa/Ill.; Santa Ana, Calif.; South Seattle, Wash., and Syracuse, N.Y.

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About Lumina Foundation: Lumina Foundation is an independent, private foundation committed to increasing the proportion of Americans with high-quality degrees, certificates and other credentials to 60 percent by 2025. Lumina’s outcomes-based approach focuses on helping to design and build an accessible, responsive and accountable higher education system while fostering a national sense of urgency for action to achieve Goal 2025. For more information, log on to: www.luminafoundation.org