



P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL FORUM RECEIVES \$300,000 GRANT FROM LUMINA FOUNDATION TO ASSURE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LATINO, IMMIGRANT, AND UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

The National Forum will continue their comprehensive efforts to influence changes in policy, institutional practice, and public support for Latino, immigrant, and undocumented students in a new three-year project.

Ann Arbor, Michigan – November 6, 2012 – The National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good (National Forum), an affiliate of the *U.S. News and World Report* top ranked Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education (CSHPE) at the University of Michigan School of Education, announced today that it has been awarded a \$300,000 grant from the Lumina Foundation for Education based in Indianapolis, Indiana. This grant will be used to expand on previous partnerships developed by the National Forum which work to assure educational opportunities and success for all capable students, especially in this project those from Latino and immigrant backgrounds.

“We are honored to be in a position to use our research capacity and to mobilize a broad set of higher education partnerships to contribute to the goal of ensuring that the nation will have well educated citizens for generations to come. This is particularly important as we reflect on the changing demands of leadership within a democracy, obvious demographic patterns and the need for sustained public investment in college and university access” said John C. Burkhardt, director of the National Forum and a professor of higher education at the University of Michigan.

In 2007, the National Forum teamed up with several foundations to launch an initiative to provide higher education access to Latino, immigrant, and undocumented students. Together, this partnership developed research that clarified the complexity of issues facing students new to higher education, pressures on individual institutions, and the U.S. higher education system at large. Through the five-year project, the partnership became a significant and unique professional and scholarly alliance that spanned institutional, association, policy oriented, advocacy and student constituencies. By building partnerships with two key national associations, NASFAA (National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators) and AACRAO (American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers), the National Forum influenced critical “boundary functions” within higher education access. This initiative encouraged NASFAA and AACRAO to include undocumented students in future admissions, financial aid and student support programs.



The initiative also served to refocus strategies related to serving Latino students and the passage of the DREAM Act. It encouraged attention to be shifted from solely the passage of the federal DREAM Act, to higher education’s overall responsibility to expand access and opportunity for all capable students, without the need for federal intervention.

Stemming from their collective success over the last five years, the National Forum consulted once again with the Lumina Foundation to extend their partnership. The goal of this newly funded project is to continue serving as a unified, backbone organization for a national network of partners over the next three years. The National Forum hopes to continue to expand awareness and understanding of issues affecting Latino, immigrant, and undocumented students in the higher education community and the public at large, as well as to engage professional organizations who can better align policies and institutional practices that provide postsecondary educational opportunities for all capable students.

This project supports the Lumina Foundation’s *Latino Student Success Initiative* by bringing the strengths of the coalition to bear on national, state, and local programs. The National Forum is excited to continue their partnership with the Lumina Foundation and is eager to further their efforts on influencing policy, institutional practice, and public support of Latino, immigrant and undocumented students in higher education.

For more information on this and other work completed by the National Forum, including research on issues of access to higher education for undocumented students, please visit the National Forum’s website at www.thenationalforum.org.

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About the National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good

The National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good (National Forum) is affiliated with the Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education (CSHPE) at the University of Michigan and is uniquely positioned as both a creator and translator of rigorous empirical research into practice-based outcomes. Our mission statement, adopted in 2000, explicitly states our “commitment to significantly increase awareness, understanding, commitment, and action relative to the public service role of higher education” in the United States.

About Lumina Foundation

Lumina Foundation, an Indianapolis-based private foundation, is committed to enrolling and graduating more students from college – especially 21st century students: low-income students, students of color, first-generation students and adult learners. Lumina’s goal is to increase the percentage of Americans who hold high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by 2025. Lumina pursues this goal in three ways: by identifying and supporting effective practice, through public policy advocacy, and by using our communications and convening power to build public will for change. For more information, log on to <http://www.luminafoundation.org>.