



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lumina Awards Grant for Racial Justice and Equity to Iḷisaġvik College
Iḷisaġvik College selected from more than 300 grant proposals

INDIANAPOLIS (January 17, 2019) – Iḷisaġvik College received a \$50,000 grant from Lumina Foundation’s Fund for Racial Justice and Equity, a project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, to fund exploratory activities regarding Indigenous self-determination and racial equity, as well as the initial development of a Cultural Competency program.

From a pool of 312 nation-wide applicants, Iḷisaġvik was one of 19 college and universities selected to receive funding from Lumina’s Fund for Racial Justice and Equity, created last year in response to racially motivated violence in Charlottesville on the campus of the University of Virginia.

“As a philanthropic leader, Lumina shares a deep passion and concern about the nation’s racial climate, especially on college campuses,” said Jamie Merisotis, president and CEO of Lumina Foundation. “These campuses have shown a willingness to address racial disparities at a systemic level: They recognize that achieving equitable results is about more than promoting diversity – it’s about whether the institution fosters a climate in which every student feels welcome and has the same opportunity to earn a degree or certificate of value, regardless of race or ethnicity.”

In partnership with Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Lumina evaluated grant applications submitted in response to a request for proposals. The number of responses indicates a strong desire throughout higher education to improve campus culture through community dialogues, faculty and staff development, and other creative approaches. Lumina received proposals from a wide breadth of institutions, including 2- and 4-year, public and private, large and small, and minority-serving.

Dr. Pearl Brower, President of Iḷisaġvik College, led the endeavor to pursue the Lumina Foundation grant. The idea to develop a Cultural Competency program has been at the forefront of the College’s objectives for the last two years, and the grant poses “an opportunity to invite discussion and collaboration on racial and Indigenous equity at Iḷisaġvik in order to strengthen our cultural understanding and perpetuate Iḷupiaq values,” according to President Brower.

About Iḷisaḡvik College Iḷisaḡvik College is Alaska’s only tribal college and is located in the northernmost village in the United States, Utqiaḡvik/Barrow. Iḷisaḡvik College provides quality post-secondary academic, vocational and technical education in a learning environment that perpetuates and strengthens Iñupiat culture, language, values and traditions. It is dedicated to serving its students and developing a well-educated and trained workforce who meet the human resource needs of North Slope employers and the state of Alaska.

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.

Iḷisaḡvik College media contact:
Justina Wilhelm
Dean of Institutional Advancement
907.852.1772
justina.wilhelm@ilisagvik.edu

Lumina Media contact:
Kate Snedeker
317.258.3748
ksnedeker@luminafoundation.org

###