



Lumina's Commitment to Educational Quality

To Achieve Quality, We Must Focus Our Efforts

The country's structures for assuring the quality of college degrees and other credentials awarded after high school no longer meet the needs of today's students, society, or the economy. Policies and practices must be updated to ensure that the learning represented by all degrees, certificates, industry certifications, and other credentials will indeed help people lead fulfilling lives and obtain and succeed in better jobs, while also building a stronger American society and economy.

An updated system of assuring quality in learning beyond high school is particularly important given the stark disparities that exist across racial, ethnic, and income groups — disparities that prevent Black, Hispanic, and Native American people from advancing socially and economically, in part because they lack quality credentials beyond a high school diploma. Troubling inequities exist in gaining access to many quality learning experiences. The country must do much more to remove obstacles that people of color and people from low-income families face in charting their course to successful graduation. Too many of these students see too few options to pursue high-quality credentials and may be drawn to low-quality, high-priced programs that offer convenience but lead nowhere.

At Lumina Foundation, we are convinced of the need for a better approach — one that prioritizes students, assures the quality of learning, and produces fair and just results for people of color. Every academic or training program should clearly state what people will know and be able to do when they're finished, and this learning should be validly and reliably assessed in context. Programs should have relevance in the job market and equip people to pursue additional learning over the course of their lives while helping them succeed in a rapidly changing world of work and flourish in their lives as leaders and participants in a diverse democracy.

Our Commitment

To pursue its mission with integrity, Lumina must model the change it desires. We must:

- Prioritize eliminating disparities in educational outcomes among Black, Hispanic, and Native American populations.
- Address structures and beliefs that divert vulnerable populations into lower-quality programs.
- Support providers that offer experiences aligned with today's workplace demands.
- Promote new forms of quality assurance that enable responsible innovation.
- Ensure that data systems can identify internal barriers and foster racial equity.
- Encourage adequate public funding to serve those students who require the most support.

Equity and Quality are Mutually Reinforcing

To achieve a just and fair society, the entire country must work to build a system that prepares people for informed citizenship and success in a global economy. That is the commitment Lumina is driving toward.

We must ensure equitable access to quality programs.

We are working with leaders in civil rights, higher education, business, government, and other fields to enable more people to earn high-quality credentials that prepare them for success in work and life.

Even as we support responsible innovation to educate and train more Americans, we must protect against the delivery of low-quality education and training to our most marginalized students.

The nation faces an urgent need to build a more inclusive, equitable structure for offering learning opportunities, and this means dismantling longstanding structures that stand in the way of progress.