



LUMINA FOUNDATION AWARDS \$500,000 GRANT TO RUTH J. SIMMONS CENTER FOR RACE AND JUSTICE

The three-year grant supports the Center's efforts to expand teaching and scholarship that contributes positively to overturning systematic biases.

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (January 13, 2021) – Prairie View A&M University has landed a half-a-million-dollar grant from Indianapolis-based Lumina Foundation for its newly-established Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and Justice. Lumina is an independent, private foundation committed to making opportunities for learning beyond high school available to all, especially for students who are Black, Hispanic, and Native American.

The \$500,000 grant will support the proactive measures PVAMU is taking to counter racial injustice and educate and train students to be prepared to contend with discrimination and the fight for justice. In addition to supporting staffing and operations, the grant will fund the Activist in Residence program at the Center, which provides students the opportunity to learn with exemplary activists who have brought a positive change in an area of diversity and inclusion. The Center will also host **The Justice Symposium** that invites notable scholars on race and justice to discuss a broad range of topics from voter suppression to societal healing.

"We are supporting efforts to eradicate and dismantle systemic racism in areas that support and complement the work of Lumina Foundation," said Danette Howard, senior vice president, and chief policy officer at Lumina. "We applaud the Common Cause Education Fund, which has demonstrated equity-mindedness through training, education, and a commitment to reflecting the community that it serves."

"Grants like this give us the opportunity to expose our students to top-rate scholars and practitioners and invites them into national conversations about the promotion of justice and equality," shared Melanye Price, Ph.D., Endowed Professor of Political Science and Director for the Center for Race and Justice.

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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. We envision a system that is easy to navigate, delivers fair results, and meets the nation's need for talent through a broad range of credentials. Our goal is to prepare people for informed citizenship and for success in a global economy.

About Prairie View A&M University: Designated an institution of "the first class" in the Texas Constitution, Prairie View A&M University is the second-oldest public institution of higher education in the state. With an established reputation for producing engineers, nurses, and educators, PVAMU offers baccalaureate degrees, master's degrees, and doctoral degree programs through nine colleges and schools. A member of The Texas A&M University System, the university is dedicated to fulfilling its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research, and service. For more information regarding PVAMU, visit www.pvamu.edu.

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