



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**National Partnership for Educational Access and Jack Kent Cooke Foundation
Announce Call for Nominations: 2019 Award for Excellence in Educational Access**

BOSTON, MA – January 31, 2019 – The National Partnership for Educational Access (NPEA) and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation are pleased to accept nominations for the 2019 *NPEA/Cooke Foundation Award for Excellence in Educational Access*.

The Award, sponsored by the Cooke Foundation, will recognize an NPEA Member Organization, Program, or School with a \$5,000 monetary award for excellence in supporting underserved students on the path to and through college and for demonstrating: effective practices in supporting underserved students; commitment to using data to inform and improve programming and practices; support for students’ personal growth and success; a commitment to sustainability and long-term success; leadership in the community; and creative problem-solving and innovation in meeting the needs of their constituents.

In reflecting on this Award and the partnership that has helped make it possible, NPEA’s Executive Director, Karin Elliott, shared: “For the past few years, NPEA and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation have joined forces to recognize and celebrate excellence in supporting underserved students on the path to and through college. We are grateful to The Cooke Foundation for their unwavering support and for their commitment to identifying leaders and sharing best practices in the field of education access. We are pleased to launch the nomination process for the 2019 Award and look forward to our continued partnership with The Cooke Foundation.”

“Each year, this award celebrates the work of one organization that exemplifies NPEA’s mission to support students in accessing high-quality learning opportunities,” said Cooke Foundation Executive Director Seppy Basili. “We are honored to sponsor this award - we all have so much to learn from the leadership and practices of NPEA members.”

The 2019 *NPEA/Cooke Foundation Award* winner will be announced at the national NPEA Conference, *Raising Our Voices: Bold Innovations That Empower Students*, taking place on April 3-5, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza in downtown Chicago. For more information about the conference and the Award nominations process, please visit: www.educational-access.org/conference.php.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATIONAL ACCESS

The National Partnership for Educational Access (NPEA) is a membership organization that connects the people, practices, and innovations essential for eliminating barriers to educational access and college and career success for underserved students. Working together, our members make it possible for all students to access high-quality learning opportunities and to thrive at every phase of their unique educational journeys. For more information, please visit: <http://www.educational-access.org/>.

ABOUT THE JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION

The Cooke Foundation is dedicated to advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need. Since 2000, the foundation has awarded \$190 million in scholarships to nearly 2,500 students from 8th grade through graduate school, along with comprehensive counseling and other support services. The foundation has also provided \$100 million in grants to organizations that serve such students. www.jkcf.org

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