



For Immediate Release
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For Sixth Consecutive Year, the Pro Bono Publico Foundation Awards \$1,000,000 in Grants Supporting Greater New Orleans Schools and Education

(New Orleans, Louisiana) Continuing its ongoing commitment to invest in New Orleans public schools and high-quality public education, today the Pro Bono Publico Foundation (“PBPF”) announced its 2020 -2021 grants totaling \$1,000,000 to 74 recipients.

Today’s virtual grant award ceremony, which included PBPF board members and representatives of schools and organizations receiving grants, was joined by more than 80 participants.

This year’s award ceremony marked the sixth consecutive year PBPF grants totaled \$1,000,000 and brings the cumulative grant total to more than \$9,300,000 through 14 grant cycles. As the Rex Organization prepares for its 150th anniversary in 2022, the PBPF looks forward to breaking the \$10,000,000 mark for cumulative grants since its founding following Hurricane Katrina.

Through the foundation’s grants to schools, supporting organizations, and its Strategic Innovation Grant that helps retain and recruit high-quality teachers across New Orleans’ public charter system, it touches institutions serving all 49,000 of our city’s public charter school students. The foundation’s 74 grants this year include 9 charter management organizations responsible for 48 schools; 22 individual charter schools; 9 other schools, including several serving children with special needs; 25 organizations that provide supporting services to students and schools; 5 policy and advocacy organizations; and 4 college support organizations.

The Pro Bono Publico Foundation (probonopublicofoundation.com) was formed by members of the Rex Organization (rexorganization.com) as New Orleans recovered from Hurricane Katrina. Thanks to the generosity of its donors, the foundation has been able to make a sustained and meaningful investment in support of our community’s public schools and its students, as the 2020 - 2021 grant total marks the ninth consecutive year the PBPF’s grants exceed \$500,000 and the sixth consecutive year grants have totaled \$1,000,000.

In 2018, PBPF officials adjusted the grantmaking approach to allow for innovative, strategic “game-changing” grants. It became clear the greatest system-wide need was the ability to

recruit and retain great teachers. New Schools for New Orleans (“NSNO”) was awarded a three-year grant in 2019 to support that work with a goal to reduce teacher attrition by five percentage points by the end of 2020. The PBPF’s most recent strategic grant was in partnership with the City of New Orleans to support EdNavigator and provide invaluable guidance for charter school children and their families. Additionally, as a result of COVID-19’s sudden school closings in early 2020, the foundation partnered with NSNO and New Orleans Public Schools to help fund the New Orleans Technology Access Fund, which made investments in laptops, smart tablets, and home internet connectivity for charter school children.

“The Pro Bono Publico Foundation’s donors, as well as other local foundations that we partner with, recognize the importance of this investment in our children and our future, especially this year during the national pandemic,” said Storey Charbonnet, the chairman of the foundation and Rex 2020. Charbonnet continued, “We have made tremendous progress, but we recognize there is much work still to do to ensure excellence in all of our schools. Our investment of \$1,000,000 six years in a row, and more than \$9,300,000 in total, is evidence of our support toward that goal. We look forward to breaking through the \$10,000,000 mark in the Rex Organization’s 150th anniversary year next year.”

The foundation’s grants show the determined efforts of Rex members and the PBPF to ensure all of New Orleans’ children can attend excellent schools. These schools, and organizations supporting their important work, have been the focus of PBPF’s investment, as well as the commitment of dozens of Rex members serving on their boards.

Quick Facts:

- The PBPF’s 2020 - 2021 grants total \$1,000,000, and the foundation’s giving since 2007 exceeds \$9,300,000.
- This is the sixth consecutive year the PBPF has awarded \$1,000,000 in grants and the ninth consecutive year the PBPF has awarded at least \$500,000.
- For its 2020 - 2021 grants, the PBPF awarded grants to 74 grantees.
- Through a grant to the NORD Foundation, the PBPF continues to sponsor activities at Taylor Playground, adjacent to the Rex Den.
- Grants from the PBPF support organizations serve our community’s children from “cradle to college.”

The list of the 74 institutions receiving grants from the Pro Bono Publico Foundation’s 2020 - 2021 grant cycle is on the following page.

Pro Bono Publico Foundation
2020-2021 Grantees

826 New Orleans	KIPP New Orleans Schools
Algiers Charter School Association	LA Association of Public Charter Schools
ARISE Schools	LA Policy Institute for Children
Audubon Charter School	Lake Forest Charter School
Belle Chasse Academy	Leading Educators, Greater New Orleans
Ben Franklin High School	Live Oak Wilderness Camp
Breakthrough New Orleans	Louisiana Charter School Alliance
Bricolage Academy	Morris Jeff Community School
Brothers Empowered to Teach	New Orleans Arts Education Alliance
Center for Resilience	New Orleans Career Center
Citizens' Committee for Education dba Homer A. Plessy	New Orleans Military & Maritime Academy
City Year New Orleans	New Schools for New Orleans
College Beyond	NOCCA Institute
College Track	NORD Foundation - Taylor Park Booster Club
Collegiate Academies	Raphael Academy
Community Academies	ReNEW Charter Management
Community Works	Rooted School
Crescent City Schools	Roots of Music, Inc., The
EdNavigator, Inc.	Son of a Saint
Educare	Special Education Leadership Fellowship
Education Pioneers	St. Augustine High School
Education Reform Now Louisiana	St. Michael Special School
Educators for Quality Alternatives/Net Charter School	St. Stephen's School
Einstein Group, Inc.	Start the Adventure in Reading (STAIR)
Elan Academy Charter School	STEM Library Lab
Electric Girls	STEM NOLA
First Line Schools	Success Preparatory Academy
Foundation for Science & Math Education	Teach for America - GNO
Greater New Orleans STEM Initiative	The Bright School
Hoffman Early Learning Center	The Chartwell Center
IDEA Public Schools New Orleans	The Good Shepherd School
InspireNOLA Charter Schools	The Posse Foundation
International High School of New Orleans	Tulane University Cowen Institute
International School of LA	Warren Easton Charter High School
Jefferson Chamber Foundation Academy	Young Audiences Charter School
Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy	Youth Force NOLA
KID smART	Youth Run NOLA