FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE


BOSTON, MA – January 11, 2022 – The National Partnership for Educational Access (NPEA) and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation are pleased to announce the 2022 Awards for Excellence in Educational Access. This year two awards will recognize leadership in equity among NPEA member programs and schools. Nominations will be accepted through February 3, 2022 for the Program Leadership in Equity Award and the School Leadership in Equity Award. Sponsored by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, both Awards will recognize excellence in the field of educational access in supporting students from historically marginalized or excluded communities on the path to and through college. In addition to public recognition, the winners of this year's 2022 Awards for Excellence in Educational Access will each receive a $5,000 monetary gift. NPEA is grateful to the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation for generously sponsoring the 2022 Awards for Excellence in Educational Access.

In reflecting on this Award and the partnership that has helped make it possible, NPEA's Executive Director, Karin Elliott, shared: “We are so appreciative of The Cooke Foundation’s commitment to this work and for sponsoring a second Award for Excellence that will highlight the work of schools in equity. We are excited to celebrate an organization and a school and share their promising practices as true leaders in the field.”

“This year, two awards celebrate the work of the program and the school that exemplifies NPEA’s mission to support students in accessing high-quality learning opportunities,” said Cooke Foundation Executive Director Seppy Basili. “We are thrilled to sponsor these awards - over the years, we have learned important promising practices from fellow NPEA members.”

The 2022 NPEA/Cooke Foundation Award winners will be announced in connection with the NPEA conference, Meeting the Moment: Reimagining Equity and Access for a New Educational Era, taking place on April 12-14, 2022. For more information about the conference, please visit: https://educational-access.org/page/conference
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 $230 million in scholarships to nearly 3,000 students from 8th grade through graduate school, along with comprehensive counseling and other support services. The foundation has also provided $120 million in grants to organizations that serve such students. For more information about The Cooke Foundation, please visit: http://www.jkcf.org

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATIONAL ACCESS
The National Partnership for Educational Access (NPEA) is a membership association that connects the people, practices, and innovations essential for eliminating barriers to educational access and college and career success for underserved students. NPEA is an initiative of The Steppingstone Foundation. For more information about NPEA, please visit: http://www.educational-access.org.

ABOUT THE STEPPINGSTONE FOUNDATION
Founded in 1990, Steppingstone prepares students from historically marginalized communities to access, navigate, and graduate from college. In Boston, we provide academic, social-emotional, and college readiness services, beginning as early as fifth grade and continuing through college graduation. Nationally, we connect the people, practices, and innovations essential for eliminating barriers to college success. Ultimately, Steppingstone envisions a more just and equitable world where all students can actualize the life-transforming benefits of a college degree. For more information about Steppingstone, please visit: http://www.tsf.org.

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