



THE RENAISSANCE EDUCATION GROUP, INC.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (Jefferson City, MO) Establishes Official Partnership with
THE RENAISSANCE EDUCATION GROUP, INC. (Durham, NC)**

DURHAM, North Carolina (October 21, 2013) – In a distinctive approach to supporting college admission through its Upward Bound and Talent Search Program, **The Renaissance Education Group, Inc.** (Renaissance) in Durham, NC has established a unique partnership with **The Lincoln University of Missouri** (Lincoln University) to expand college access through a strategy that reduces the cost of attending college out of state.

The Articulation Agreement addresses admission requirements for early and regular admission for students who complete a Renaissance pre-college preparation program and have a desire to attend Lincoln University. Dr. Kenneth Mitchell, TRIO director for Durham and Edgecombe counties in North Carolina, is excited about the opportunities established under this agreement. “Students need choices about their post-secondary options, and need the chance to consider out-of-state schools that support their needs without the barrier of out-of-state fees associated with selecting them.”

The newly established agreement declares North Carolina students as “in-state”, as opposed to “out-of-state”, for the purposes of reducing the costs of attendance at Lincoln University. By being officially classified as an “in-state” applicant, students will save (on average) approximately \$5,000 per year totaling to an overall savings of \$20,000. This agreement also allows Lincoln University to declare independent status for students who meet the criteria of McKinney-Vento eligibility for FAFSA/financial aid determinations. This will remove the need for these youth to provide parental financial information and a parent signature. By adapting characteristics of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRA), the Renaissance and Lincoln University agreement includes ways to remove barriers to accessing federal college financial aid for unaccompanied homeless youth. This agreement marks a huge milestone in the educational community for Renaissance and Lincoln University.

Dr. Kevin D. Rome, Sr., President of Lincoln University, connects this milestone with the University’s historical significance: “Lincoln University is excited to continue our long historical tradition of being an institution that embraces **all**. Working with students in Renaissance TRIO

programs aligns with our mission and furthers the dream of our founders. The dream continues today, as Lincoln University continues to serve the community, specifically welcoming and working with students to overcome barriers and stigmas by meeting all students where they are and providing them with the best education possible. We are ecstatic and proud that Dr. Kenneth Mitchell ('91 and '93) and Mr. Jerome Offord, Jr. ('93), Chief of Staff to the President, designed and built this wonderful collaborative project.”

As this is Renaissance's FIRST College Matriculation Agreement, it includes guidelines for the following:

1. Early Admission Criteria;
2. Regular Admission Criteria;
3. Conditions for Financial Aid Processing for Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) and Foster Care Youth;
4. Admission Application and Housing Fee Waivers; and
5. In-state Tuition for Students who Have Applied and Matriculated to Lincoln University ***who have completed Upward Bound or Talent Search***

Dr. Mitchell affirms that, “This partnership expands our mission by supporting the work of college preparation in TRIO, with cost-reduction strategies and increased support for disconnected populations. I am excited that the first one is with my alma mater, Lincoln University of Missouri.”

The collaborative relationship between The Renaissance Education Group, Inc. and Lincoln University will open up many doors for young scholars. “It will provide many Durham Public School students with a fantastic opportunity to attend an out-of-state college in a region of a country that is less traveled by disadvantaged youth,” says Ms. Michelle Hedgepeth-Smith, Director of Student Services for Durham Public Schools. She goes on to say, “The Renaissance Education Group, Inc. continues to show unwavering commitment to meeting the needs of youth in the Durham learning community and for that, our district is greatly appreciative.”

Lincoln University of Missouri is a historically black 1890 land-grant, public, comprehensive institution that provides excellent educational opportunities including theoretical and applied learning experiences to a diverse population within a nurturing, student-center environment.

The Renaissance Education Group, Inc. is a youth – centered, social purpose, nonprofit organization, whose mission is to “provide educational programs and services to at-risk, underserved, and disadvantaged youth, their families, and organizations and institutions that work with them.” Renaissance provides UB programs in Edgecombe County (P-047-A-070916) and Durham County (P-047-A-070754). In addition, its newly established Talent Search program (P-044-A-110768) from Durham County. For more information contact the office, toll free, at 1-877-416-1736.

FACT SHEET

Federal Programs and Regulations

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (Jefferson City, MO) Establishes Official Partnership with THE RENAISSANCE EDUCATION GROUP, INC. (Durham, NC)

Talent Search

Established under the U.S. Department of Education, this federally funded TRIO Program:

- Identifies and assists individuals (Durham County) from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education
- Encourages persons who have not completed education programs at the secondary or postsecondary level to enter or reenter and complete postsecondary education
- Provides academic, financial, career, or personal counseling including advice on entry or re-entry to secondary or postsecondary programs, career exploration and aptitude assessment, tutorial services, information on postsecondary education and exposure to college campuses
- Has a goal to ***increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in and complete their postsecondary education***

Upward Bound

Established under the U.S. Department of Education, this federally funded TRIO Program:

- Serves high school students (Durham and Edgecombe County) from families where they are potential first generation college students, and who meet specific income guidelines
- Provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance
- Offers academic enrichment, academic advisement, career development, personal counseling, test preparation, and postsecondary preparation during its academic year component, as well as intense academic instruction in the core curriculum, supplemental instruction, and cultural and social enrichment during the required summer component
- Has a goal to ***increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education***

TRIO

- Federal outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Includes seven programs targeted to serve and assist low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate program

College Cost Reduction Act (CCRA)

- Expanded definition of “independent student” to include any applicant who has been verified during the school year in which the application was submitted as either:
 - An unaccompanied youth who is a homeless child or youth, as such terms as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; or
 - An unaccompanied youth who is at risk of homelessness and is also self supporting

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- Defines homelessness as children or youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
- Classification and verification for FAFSA can be executed by the following:
 - A local educational agency homeless liaison;
 - The director or designees of the director of a program funded by the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Act;
 - The director of a program funded under subtitle B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; or
 - A financial aid administrator

Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA)

- Intended to strengthen the educational resources of our colleges and universities and to provide financial assistance for students in postsecondary and higher education
- Includes provisions for disconnected youth, including:
 - Foster care youth;
 - Homeless children and youth;
 - Limited English proficiency youth; and
 - “Other” identified disconnected populations