LINCOLN FOUNDATION

LEADING FORWARD

2025 IMPACT REPORT & 2026 FALL NEWSLETTER

WHITNEY M. YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Talent is universal, but opportunity is not. At the Whitney M. Young Scholars Program, we work every day to bridge that divide.

Our scholars come to us with tremendous potential, curiosity, and determination. Many are already high-achieving students with ambitious goals for their future. What they often need is access: access to information, exposure to new possibilities, meaningful mentorship, and a support system that helps them navigate



the path to college and beyond. Through academic enrichment, leadership development, college advising, scholarship support, and family engagement, we help scholars turn potential into achievement.

I see it in the students who find their voices while preparing for our annual speech contest. I see it in the scholar who walks onto a college campus and begins to believe they belong there. I see it in the senior who realizes that higher education can be both attainable and affordable. These moments may never appear in a chart or spreadsheet, but they are often the turning points that change the trajectory of a young person's life.

What inspires me most is how our scholars embrace every opportunity placed before them. They spend Saturday mornings deepening STEM



skills, refining essays, exploring career pathways, preparing scholarship applications, and challenging themselves to grow. Along the way, they develop something just as important as academic skills: confidence. They learn to advocate for themselves, recognize their own strengths, and envision futures they may never have imagined possible.

Every scholar's journey is unique, but the mission remains the same: to help talented young people overcome barriers, realize their potential, and build brighter futures for themselves, their families, and their communities. Year after year, our scholars remind us that when talent is matched with opportunity, extraordinary things happen.

— *Quin Thomas*
Senior Educational Program Coordinator



Whitney M. Young Scholars Program

COLLEGE TRANSITION ENRICHMENT PROGRAM:

A YEAR OF GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT



Each year, Lincoln Foundation's College Transition Enrichment Program (CTEP) celebrates one cohort as they earn their college degrees and welcomes a new group of freshmen who are beginning their college journey.

During 2025, our college success coaches supported our scholars through one-on-one meetings, countless phone calls, emails, and texts. Program support includes course registration, the development of individualized strategies for academic success, college funding options, and postgraduate career exploration.

Through the Future Leaders Internship Program (FLIP), six scholars completed internships at Breakthrough Louisville, GE Appliances, and Yum! Brands. Others utilized the FLIP program to edit their resumes and improve their interviewing skills. FLIP continues to connect scholars to new companies, helping them get a leg up in their careers.

The College Transition Enrichment Program continues to advance while celebrating a four-year graduation attainment rate of 70% for the CTEP Class of 2026! The work will continue to support scholars as they work to earn their degrees and move into meaningful careers!

– *Jack Stallins*
College Transition Coordinator

WHITNEY M. YOUNG LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE:

BY THE NUMBERS FISCAL YEAR 2025

Number of Whitney M. Young Scholars (grades 8-12)	**190**
Number of College Transition Enrichment Program Scholars	**147**
Total Number of Scholars	**337**
Percent of Scholars on Free & Reduced Meals	**82%**
Total number of High School Seniors (Class of 2025)	**32**
Average GPA (Class of 2025)	**3.49**
Average ACT (Class of 2025)	**22.28**
Total Merit-Based Scholarships & KEES Dollars Earned	**$8.1 Million**
Class Valedictorians	**1**
National Honor Society Members	**8**
National Beta Club Members	**9**
Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program	**2**
Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts	**2**

OUR PROVEN RESULTS!

Total High School Graduation Rate	**100%**
Total Accepted into College or University	**100%**
College 2nd Year Persistence Rate* vs. 76% KY avg.	**91%**
College Retention Rate* vs. 80% KY target	**93%**
4-year Graduation Rate* vs. 52% nationally	**66%**
6 Mos. Post-grad Employment/Continuing Education Rate* vs. 77% natl. post-grad avg.	**86%**

**Results based on CEP and EDI Data*

OUR MISSION

To provide educational enrichment programs that develop and support youth in overcoming social and economic barriers to achievement.

Charity Navigator ✦✦✦✦ FOUR-STAR

Platinum Transparency 2025 Candid.

BBB

LINCOLN FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR: JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2025

REVENUES, GAINS, AND SUPPORT

Contributions	$ 139,426
Rental Income	619,319
Grants	421,500
In-kind Contributions	62,281
Investment Gains	1,456,792
Other	64,295
Total Revenues, Gains, and Support	**2,763,613**

EXPENSES

Program Expenses	1,251,313
Operating Expenses	302,604
Fundraising Expenses	203,504
Grants and Scholarships	194,881
Total Expenses	**1,952,302**
Change in Net Assets	811,311
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	12,553,035
Net Assets at End of Year	**$13,364,346**

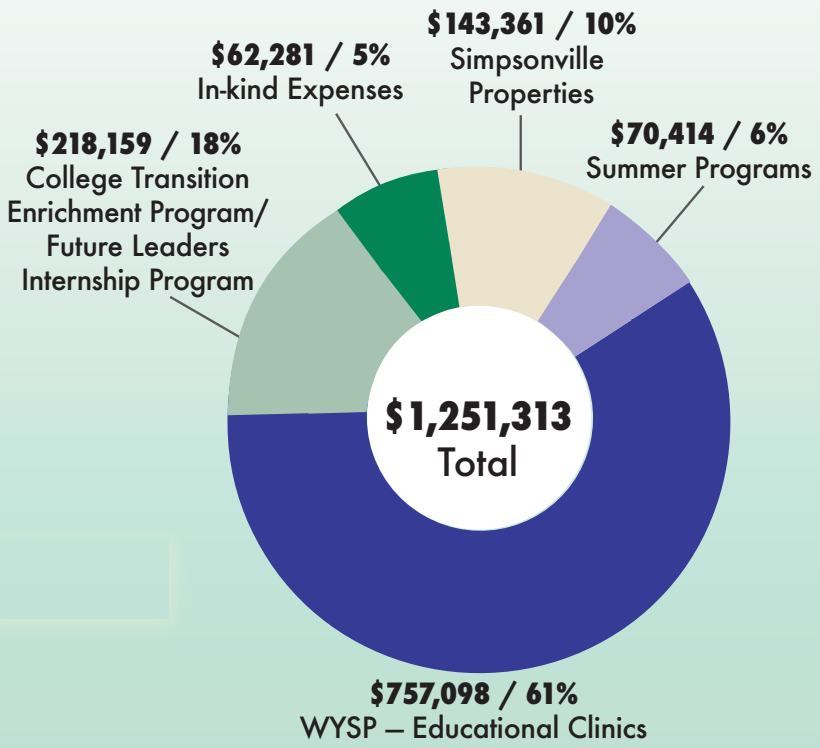
LOOKING AHEAD

In 2025, Lincoln Foundation realigned its college preparatory and college success programs as the Whitney M. Young Leadership Initiative. This continuum runs from grade 8 through college degree attainment and provides the appropriate mentoring and guidance at each stage of our scholars' educational journey. The Whitney M. Young Scholars Program provides middle and high school students with rigorous college preparatory curricula and assists families with college selection and college funding options.

The College Transition Enrichment Program works to ensure students have a successful transition to college, maintain scholarship qualifications, and earn their degrees on time. During our college scholars' junior and senior years, they benefit from the Future Leaders Internship Program that assists in placing students in meaningful, career-related internships and practicums. With great support from our academic partners, donors, and supporters, this important work continues, and our outcomes are best measured in the lives changed for the better.

– Marshall Bradley, Jr.
President

WHITNEY M. YOUNG LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE EXPENSE FY 2025



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POWER PARTNERS:

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY TOGETHER

In 2026, Lincoln Foundation and Breakthrough Louisville partnered to expand opportunities for student success. Four CTEP Scholars served as Breakthrough Teaching Fellows, while three Whitney M. Young Scholars participated in Breakthrough's summer program, demonstrating the power of collaboration to develop future leaders.



A CTEP Scholar leads classroom instruction as a Breakthrough Louisville Teaching Fellow, gaining hands-on experience while inspiring the next generation of learners.



The four CTEP Teaching Fellows and three Whitney M. Young Scholars represent the impact of a partnership designed to expand educational opportunity and leadership development.



Teaching Fellows join leaders from Lincoln Foundation and Breakthrough Louisville to celebrate a successful partnership focused on student achievement, leadership, and opportunity.

Give for Good Louisville™
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF LOUISVILLE

WHEN POWER PARTNERS GIVE, SCHOLARS THRIVE!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, friends, and partners, Lincoln Foundation raised $63,191 from 201 donors during Give for Good Louisville 2026. These gifts helped drive a successful fall campaign total of $78,686.

Your support strengthens the Whitney M. Young Leadership Initiative, providing scholars with the academic support, leadership development, and college success resources they need to earn a college degree.

The need continues beyond Give for Good. Make your impact today by investing in Louisville's next generation of leaders by visiting our donation page.

Thank you for being a Power Partner in student success.

DONATE NOW!

