



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 9, 2021

CONTACT:

Tyronna Hooker, M.Ed.
Executive Director, Alamance Achieves
tyronna.hooker@conehealth.com
336-395-7020

ALAMANCE ACHIEVES RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM STRIVETOGETHER FOR AN EQUITABLE RECOVERY

Systemic racial inequities exposed by COVID-19 heighten the need for systems transformation

Burlington, NC — StriveTogether, a national network working to bring communities together around data to make decisions and improve results for kids, today announced Alamance Achieves as an awardee for the Challenge Fund. Alamance Achieves joins fifty other communities across 26 states to deliver more equitable outcomes for children and families. These communities are part of the Cradle to Career Network, a national movement led by StriveTogether to ensure every child has every opportunity to succeed.

A community-driven initiative to ensure that every child in Alamance County is educated, equipped and engaged from cradle to career, Alamance Achieves is focused on four key goals: kindergarten readiness, academic progress, high school graduation and career success. To achieve these goals, Alamance Achieves has created an all-in partnership of leaders in education, business, government, philanthropy, and community and faith organizations from across Alamance County. “We want all our children to receive the best education possible and be prepared to thrive,” explained Tyronna Hooker, executive director.

“When the pandemic hit in early 2020, we made the strategic decision to shift cost savings from cancelled events and travel to expand grants we award to our network members,” said Jennifer Blatz, president and CEO, StriveTogether. “With the support of our board of directors, we pivoted and accelerated payment of previously awarded multi-year grants and extended new grants focused on COVID-19 recovery and resilience. The work underway in these communities is vital to the future of our children. We’re supporting the efforts of communities to transform systems so that they produce more equitable outcomes.”

Altogether, StriveTogether has provided \$20 million in grants since the onset of the pandemic in 2020 and will award another \$12 million by the end of 2021. Multi-year commitments from several long-time investors in StriveTogether helped make this possible.



“Our network members are helping their communities change the systems that fail so many families of color and families experiencing poverty. There is tremendous need and opportunity to redefine what’s possible,” Blatz added. “We’re creating a new normal where race, ethnicity and poverty do not determine opportunity or outcome.”

Alamance Achieves priorities are focused on better identifying the root causes of educational inequities in their community. “We use data to illuminate areas of opportunity and to align existing local efforts, all to strengthen the learning opportunities that make up the Alamance achievement grid,” explained Hooker.

These investments reflect StriveTogether’s ongoing commitment to support its network of cross-sector partnerships as they work to put children and families on a path toward economic mobility. Communities across the country are changing systems like education, housing, health care and more with a goal of eliminating disparities for millions of young people and their families.

Priority was given to network members serving significant populations of children and families of color who are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The following have received funding:

- Achieve Brown County, Green Bay, WI
- Achieve Escambia, Pensacola, FL
- Alamance Achieves, Burlington, NC
- Aligned Impact Muscatine County, Muscatine, IA
- All Hands Raised, Portland, OR
- Baltimore's Promise, Baltimore, MD
- Better Together Central Oregon, Redmond, OR
- Boston Opportunity Agenda, Boston, MA
- Bridgeport Prospers, Bridgeport, CT
- Building Our Future, Kenosha, WI
- The Commit Partnership, Dallas, TX
- Cradle to Career, Rochester, MN
- Cradle to Career Alliance, Columbia, MO
- Cradle to Career Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH
- Cradle to Career Fresno County, Fresno, CA
- Cradle to Career Partnership, Tucson, AZ
- E3 Alliance, Austin, TX
- Eastside Pathways, Bellevue, WA
- Marin Promise Partnership, San Rafael, CA
- Milwaukee Succeeds, Milwaukee, WI
- Mission Promise Neighborhood, San Francisco, CA
- Northfield Promise, Northfield, MN
- Norwalk ACTS, Norwalk, CT
- OnTrack, Hagerstown, MD
- Partners for Education, Berea, KY
- Promise Partnership of Salt Lake, Salt Lake City, UT
- Raise DC, Washington, DC
- RISE: Treasure Valley’s Education Partnership, Boise, ID
- The Road Map Project, Seattle, WA
- ROC the Future, Rochester, NY
- Rocky Mountain Partnership, Thornton, CO
- Seeding Success, Memphis, TN
- South Bronx Rising Together, New York, NY
- Spartanburg Academic Movement (SAM), Spartanburg, SC



- The Forsyth Promise, Winston-Salem, NC
- Generation Next, Minneapolis, MN
- Graduate Strong, Bremerton, WA
- Graduate Tacoma/Foundation for Tacoma Students, Tacoma, WA
- Harlem Renaissance Education Pipeline, New York, NY
- Higher Expectations for Racine County, Racine, WI
- imPACT East Idaho, Pocatello, ID
- ImpactTulsa, Tulsa, OK
- Learn4Life, Atlanta, GA
- Learn to Earn Dayton, Dayton, OH
- Stamford Cradle to Career, Stamford, CT
- Stanislaus Cradle to Career Partnership, Modesto, CA
- Summit Education Initiative, Akron, OH
- Thrive Chicago, Chicago, IL
- Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative, Charleston, SC
- UP Partnership, San Antonio, TX
- Waterbury Bridge to Success Community Partnership, Waterbury, CT

###

About Alamance Achieves

Alamance Achieves is an all-in partnership of leaders in education, business, government, philanthropy, and community and faith organizations. From across Alamance County, these leaders are working together to create a reliable grid of resources or charging stations that can power the achievement of Alamance County's children. The four key goals of Alamance Achieves' efforts are: kindergarten readiness, high school graduation, academic progress and career success. By aligning efforts and leveraging existing resources around common goals, we will improve outcomes for all children, from cradle to career. For more information, visit AlamanceAchieves.org.

About StriveTogether

StriveTogether partners with nearly 70 communities across the country to advance equity so local success stories can become the reality for every child, everywhere. They work to transform failing systems using collaborative improvement and a proven framework for change. The StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network is closing disparity gaps in education, housing and so much more. Together, they impacted the lives of more than 12 million youth — more than half are children of color — across 30 states and Washington, D.C. Learn more at StriveTogether.org.