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## **Summer Search Boston Awarded \$300,000 Foundation Grant**

*Grant will launch significant growth plan for mentoring non-profit*

**(BOSTON) November 14, 2016** – Summer Search, a youth development and college success organization in Boston, announced today that it has been awarded a \$300,000 grant from a new foundation partner active in education, the arts, conservation, medical research fields. The grant, paid over three years, will fund Summer Search’s mentoring and college success work by expanding student recruitment to new school communities and further elevate its student success in Boston public high schools. Summer Search Executive Director, Liz Marino, made the announcement at the nonprofit’s annual meeting on November 9th.

“Research shows that one of the most positive and powerful interventions in the life of a high school student is having a long-term, highly trained mentor,” said Marino. “Without consistent support to keep them motivated through the many challenges of adolescence, high school and college, too many bright, promising students can easily fall through the cracks.”

Through its professional mentoring program, Summer Search has seen firsthand that when students from low-income backgrounds engage in long-term mentoring relationships, their confidence, leadership skills and vision for the future expands. Summer Search’s mentoring model builds on students’ inherent strengths. By partnering with their mentor, students cultivate and practice the social and emotional skills needed to persist through high school and college, and into the professional sector. While on average only 51 percent of low-income youth graduate from high school and 11 percent earn a college degree, 99 percent of Summer Search participants graduate from high school and 70 percent earn a college degree.

“It is very exciting to see Summer Search Boston evolve and take on the subject of critical mentoring as a foundational piece of its work,” said John Barros, Chief of Economic Development for the City of Boston at Summer Search’s annual meeting. “Through trusted relationships, higher education goals, and a network of alumni, Summer Search sets the stage for a lifetime of success for students. Increasing college opportunities for low-income students isn’t just an economic priority – it’s a moral imperative.”

The grant will allow Summer Search to deepen its impact by investing in more rising young leaders throughout Greater Boston, and will provide key capacity building investments to support significant growth in services. Summer Search currently operates throughout Boston, Chelsea and Malden and is considering expansion into other neighboring “gateway cities”.

In addition to the foundation grant, Marino also announced a \$350,000 fund honoring Summer Search Boston's founding Board Member, Fredi Stevenson and the nonprofit's 20th anniversary. The funding will support serving 70 more students in Greater Boston over the next three years.

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**ABOUT SUMMER SEARCH:** Summer Search is a national youth development and college success organization with a mission to help low-income students become college educated leaders who give back to their families and communities. Summer Search Boston serves over 1,000 high school and college students annually, who come from greater Boston's highest need neighborhoods.

Summer Search Boston announced a \$350,000 fund honoring founding Board Chair, Fredi Stevenson at the nonprofit's 20th Anniversary Annual Meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The Annual Meeting featured a presentation and panel on Critical Mentoring, facilitated by John Barros.

Pictured right from L to R: John Barros, Chief of Economic Development for the City of Boston, Summer Search Boston Founding Board Chair Fredi Stevenson, and Summer Search Boston Executive Director, Liz Marino.



Panelists pictured left from L to R: Summer Search Boston Executive Director, Liz Marino, Youth Mentoring Action Network, Executive Director, Torie Weiston-Serdon, Director of Diversity, MassPort, Kenneth Turner, Co-Director of Operations, Roxbury Prep Charter School MyHanh Ozonoff, Senior Director of Programs, MENTOR, Elizabeth Santiago, and Chief of Economic Development for the City of Boston, John Barros.