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Second Nature Receives Lumina Grant to Aid Three Programs *Each program will include an emphasis on climate justice*

Boston, Massachusetts (March 9, 2021) - [Second Nature](#) - a Boston-based NGO focused on accelerating climate action through higher education - has received grant funding from [Lumina Foundation](#) - an independent, private foundation committed to making opportunities for learning beyond high school available to all.

The grant funding will support three new or expanded programmatic approaches Second Nature will implement in 2021 with the objective of activating and mobilizing institutional assets within the higher education sector to help solve the global challenge of climate change. The end goal is to create new skills, knowledge, and capability pathways within the participating individuals and higher education institutions.

The design and content of Second Nature's three programs and the communities and institutions they engage with, are inline with [Lumina Foundation's Commitment to Racial Justice and Equity](#), and will contribute to that Commitment.

The new or expanded programs include:

- **2021 Climate Action Pursuit** - a brand new approach to virtual engagement that creates knowledge-to-action teams across institutions who work together in six topic areas that are central to the nation's climate priorities. Presidential cohorts, representing the breadth of higher education institution types, will also work together towards shared climate goals aligned with global need. Second Nature is hosting the year-long Pursuit in conjunction with the Intentional Endowments Network (IEN).

The February kick-off event for the Pursuit included a session track completely focused on racial justice, and included speakers and cohort leaders from communities that are often underrepresented. Throughout the year-long Pursuit, continued emphasis will be on learning and acting together to pursue institutional and sector-wide activities that promote intersectional racial and climate justice.

<https://secondnature.org/climateactionpursuit/>

(more)

- **Climate Asset Mapping Project (CAMP)** - working in partnership with diverse entities - including student scholars, Second Nature will construct a new tool to help higher education institutions better understand and take advantage of their underutilized assets such as their academic centers, subject matter experts, and others. A main part of the program will be to provide empowerment opportunities for students of all backgrounds and communities to become involved in climate work.
- **The Climate Solutions Acceleration Fund (Acceleration Fund)** - the Acceleration Fund supports innovative cross-sector climate action activities driven by colleges and universities in the [Climate Leadership Network](#) and/or [University Climate Change Coalition \(UC3\)](#). The grant funding will support Acceleration Fund projects focused on higher education's intersection with climate justice and underserved communities, and will place emphasis on climate justice and equity projects that engage communities of color ([first round information](#)).

*“This grant funding from the Lumina Foundation plays a crucial role in Second Nature being able to ramp up our focus on climate and equity justice as a part of our climate programmatic work and in conjunction with the higher education sector.” stated **Tim Carter, president of Second Nature**, “This is a critical time for such an investment and we’re grateful for Lumina’s interest in this work.”*

*“Colleges and universities can be incredible stakeholders in solving our climate crisis in a justice-centered way, “ said **Terri Taylor, Lumina’s strategy director for innovation and discovery**. “We need all students to have opportunities to understand the problem and see how they can contribute to solutions. As Lumina starts to explore this area, we can’t imagine better early partners than Second Nature and its strong network of diverse institutions and their leaders.”*

About Second Nature:

Second Nature is committed to accelerating climate action in, and through, higher education. This is accomplished by mobilizing a diverse array of higher education institutions to act on bold climate commitments, to scale campus climate initiatives, and to create innovative climate solutions. Second Nature aims to align, amplify, and bridge the sector’s efforts with other global leaders to advance urgent climate priorities. secondnature.org.

About Lumina Foundation:

Lumina Foundation is an independent, private foundation in Indianapolis that is committed to making opportunities for learning beyond high school available to all. We envision a system that is easy to navigate, delivers fair results, and meets the nation’s need for talent through a broad range of credentials. Our goal is to prepare people for informed citizenship and for success in a global economy. luminafoundation.org/.

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