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THE MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON LITERACY RECEIVES LINCOLN FINANCIAL FOUNDATION GRANT

Philadelphia, PA (December 3, 2014) – The Mayor's Commission on Literacy received a \$10,000 grant from the Lincoln Financial Foundation in support of the Commission's path-breaking adult education program called *myPLACE™*. *myPLACE™*, which stands for Philadelphia Literacy and Adult Career Education, leverages the power of technology to accelerate adult learning in a centralized, citywide system. An estimated 550,000 adults in Philadelphia lack the basic education and work-ready skills required of family-sustaining employment and post-secondary education attainment. In response, The Commission established three *myPLACE™* campuses which offer registration, assessment, enrollment, and case management support for adult job seekers. 23 literacy organizations have partnered with the Commission to deliver face-to-face classes in adult basic education (ABE), English as a Second Language (ESL) and GED® preparation.

myPLACE™ Online offers the nation's first completely online, cohort-based classes in reading, writing and math for low-literate adults. *myPLACE™* learners improve their computer skills as they learn basic education. All who can read at the 4th-grade or higher level are enrolled in their first online course, *Introduction to Adult Learning and Careers*, in which learners plan their careers, create a professional résumé, and acquire adult study and digital skills. All learning is contextualized in healthcare, manufacturing, and logistics and transportation, three in-demand industries in Philadelphia.

According to Dr. Judith Rényi, executive director of The Commission, "Adult education is a high-yield investment. By building a skilled workforce, Philadelphia can attract enterprise, grow businesses, and stabilize neighborhoods. Educated adults who earn family-sustaining wages have more local spending power, provide for their families, and instill a value for learning in their children."

The Lincoln Financial Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Lincoln Financial Group, believes that strong economies begin with strong communities. Its grant is part of Lincoln Financial's \$10 million in charitable contributions to support education, human services, arts and economic/workforce development programs in key cities across the country where the company has a strong business presence.

About The Mayor's Commission on Literacy

The Mayor's Commission on Literacy has worked to equip all adults in Philadelphia with the education they need for work, family, and civic engagement since 1983. Mayor Michael A. Nutter appointed a new 16-member Commission in 2010. Leslie Stiles is the Chair, and Loraine Ballard Morrill is the Vice-Chair. The Mayor has charged The Commission to work on behalf of over 80 literacy and workforce development programs to help the estimated 550,000 adults in the city functioning below basic adult education levels qualify for family-sustaining jobs and post-secondary training and education. For more information about The Commission and its programs, visit philaliteracy.org.

About Lincoln Financial Foundation

The Lincoln Financial Foundation, established in 1962, is a nonprofit organization formed and supported by Lincoln Financial Group. Under the Foundation guidelines, grants are made in the areas of arts, education, human services and economic/workforce development.

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