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Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Awards Grant to Equal Opportunity Schools to Support a Back-to-School Focus on Student Well-Being

Equal Opportunity Schools One of Five Nonprofits to Receive the Highly Coveted \$170K Grant

Seattle, WA - Today, **Equal Opportunity Schools**, a Seattle-based national nonprofit, announced they are one of five nonprofits selected by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative to receive a grant focused on back-to-school well-being. Equal Opportunity Schools will partner with schools to design restart plans that meet the needs of Black male students and their families, supporting the facilitation of relationship and community building.

EOS is a national organization serving school districts of all sizes. They help schools to better serve students of color, low-income students and improve the accessibility of advanced learning classes.

The \$170,000 grant will allow Equal Opportunity Schools to continue pursuing its African American Male Initiative (AAMI), designed to improve its organizational impact on African American male student experience, belonging and access to academic success in advanced coursework. EOS will make this learning public by sharing and leveraging our findings in this essential area of work that public K-12 educational systems continue to struggle to address.

States **Byron V. Garrett**, Equal Opportunity Schools' Chief Executive Officer:

“What we are doing is exciting because we can truly engage and enlist students of color in the shaping and redevelopment of an education space that traditionally only worked for certain students, and we can do so in an intentional and authentic way. This will not only serve as an opportunity for them to learn from the work that experts are doing in the field, but also to reimagine themselves in a broader light, expand possibilities for their future and heal from some of the traumas they have experienced. This work will allow us to hear, reaffirm, and creatively respond to the needs and dreams of the students.”

States **Dr. Sasha Rabkin**, Equal Opportunity Schools' Chief Strategy Officer:

“As a largely revenue-based nonprofit organization, EOS seeks philanthropic investments to make our program model more impactful and attractive to schools and districts. This grant is a great example of a funder stepping up and giving us support to incubate new solutions for African American young men. With this money, EOS is able to quickly operationalize the recommendations of our AAMI workgroup and to develop program insights that we can scale across the portfolio. As our own data shows, a full 77% of students report feeling a lack of motivation in their virtual learning environment and we know that those furthest from educational justice are always impacted most. With this investment, EOS can find creative, forward-thinking ways to impact the lived experiences of African American male students.”

States **Kia Franklin**, Equal Opportunity Schools' Chief Program Officer:

“Now more than ever we must disrupt “business as usual,” which has historically disserved Black male students. That starts with designing back-to-school approaches that center, serve, and affirm Black male students in academically rigorous ways – something the system was not traditionally designed to do. We are excited about the collective learning and community building that this work will produce, as well as its potential to send the powerful message to students that we see them, support them, and know that they have limitless potential.”

About Equal Opportunity Schools (eoschools.org)

Equal Opportunity Schools is a national organization serving school districts of all sizes. We are here to help better serve students of color and low-income students and improve the accessibility of advanced learning classes. We provide tools such as a gaps chart analysis; equity pathways reports; beginning- and end-of-year student/administrator surveys; best practices from more than 650 schools in 210+ districts across 33 states; and support to make equity and improved access to rigorous courses a district priority.

About the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (www.chanzuckerberg.com)

Founded by Dr. Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg in 2015, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) is a new kind of philanthropy that’s leveraging technology to help solve some of the world’s toughest challenges — from eradicating disease, to improving education, to reforming the criminal justice system. Across three core Initiative focus areas of Science, Education, and Justice & Opportunity, we’re pairing engineering with grant-making, impact investing, and policy and advocacy work to help build an inclusive, just and healthy future for everyone. For more information, please visit www.chanzuckerberg.com.

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