



## ANNOUNCEMENT:

# The Capital One Community Impact and Investment Team Supports The Hope Center to Serve North Philadelphia #RealCollege Students

January 12, 2022

The Capital One Community Impact and Investment Team recently awarded a grant to [The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice](#) to help college-bound North Philadelphia students meet their basic needs. In this new initiative, The Hope Center will train [Steppingstone Scholars](#), a Philadelphia education non-profit, to assist students, including those in area high schools and Temple University students. Steppingstone supports Temple's new [Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program](#).

"As a proud part of the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University, our team is pleased to offer support to students throughout our hometown," said Sara Goldrick-Rab, President and Founder of The Hope Center.

"Capital One is proud to support The Hope Center at Temple University and its efforts to develop effective, equitable, and impactful programming for college-bound, Philadelphia students while alleviating basic need insecurities. We are honored to contribute to the advancement of vital research, resources, and leadership development that the Hope Center for College continues to pursue," said Nicole Pender, Senior Associate on Capital One's Community Impact and Investment Team.

In the [#RealCollegePHL™ 2021 report](#), the Hope Center found that over half of Philadelphia area college students experienced basic needs insecurity during the pandemic. Meeting students' basic needs requires an ecosystem where multiple systems work together to support students. This initiative and new partnership seeks to both prevent basic needs insecurity as students transition to college and address it once students are enrolled.

"Steppingstone Scholars is laser-focused on creating pathways to college and the workforce for young men and women in Philadelphia," said Steppingstone President Sean Vereen. "For our students to be successful in the classroom and in the workplace, we know they first must have their basic needs met. We are so grateful that The Hope Center, through this generous grant from Capital One, will be training our team in how best to assist our students."

## ABOUT STEPPINGSTONE SCHOLARS

[Steppingstone Scholars](#) is an educational social mobility organization. For low-income students in the City of Philadelphia there are no clear pathways made specifically for them to go to college and enter the workforce. Since 1999, Steppingstone has been working to address this systemic problem by creating not just one pathway, but many. Serving students ages 10 – 24, Steppingstone offers three (3) solutions-oriented approaches: Academy, which provides transformative, rigorous learning opportunities to high-achieving educationally underserved students to access and succeed at highly resourced schools; Pathways, which leverages custom resources inside public K-12 schools (neighborhood, charter, and citywide) to create pathways to college and the workforce for educationally underserved students; and Ventures, which creates broad enrichment programs that innovate the ways in which schools, nonprofits, and communities can more equitably serve engaged citizens ready to enter college and a changing workforce. This systemic multi-faceted approach helps students identify, create, and confidently walk their pathways through institutions of higher education and work, well-prepared to begin breaking the cycles of disinvestment and socioeconomic inequality that has existed in Philadelphia for generations. For more information regarding Steppingstone Scholars, please visit: [www.steppingstonescholars.org](http://www.steppingstonescholars.org).

## ABOUT THE HOPE CENTER

[The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice](#) is an action research center transforming higher education into a more effective, equitable, and impactful sector using a powerful combination of applied scientific research, technical assistance to colleges and universities, policy advising with state and federal governments, and strategic communications. We believe that students are humans first and that their basic needs are central conditions for learning. We are redefining what it means to be a student-ready college with a national movement centering #RealCollege students' basic needs.