

South  
Eastern  
Pennsylvania  
Consortium  
For  
Higher  
Education



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Arcadia University  
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Cabrini College  
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Chestnut Hill College  
Philadelphia

Gwynedd-Mercy College  
Gwynedd Valley

Holy Family University  
Philadelphia

Immaculata University  
Immaculata

Neumann College  
Aston

Rosemont College  
Rosemont

## SEPCHE RECEIVES LUMINA FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION GRANT TO SERVE THE UNDERSERVED

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education (SEPCHE) has been awarded a Lumina Foundation for Education grant of \$115,600 to help institutions respond more effectively to their changing demographics in the college-age population, with particular emphasis on addressing underserved populations.

The eight colleges and universities of SEPCHE envision their campuses serving in a more sensitive and sensible fashion the increasingly diverse population of students that has begun to reshape their campuses. The grant will help the member institutions to fund Phase I of the multifaceted, “Serving the Underserved” (SUS) project.

The first phase of the SEPCHE initiative includes hiring a consultant to conduct an assessment of the needs of underserved students that will focus on both future and current students. It will highlight existing best practices at individual SEPCHE institutions that enhance both retention and academic success, and indicate where improvements might be warranted. SEPCHE has formed a core team with a vice president from each institution, and an advisory committee of leaders from the Greater Philadelphia community who represent diverse ethnic and social groups. Both groups will work with the consultant to design a multi-faceted plan to prepare the eight SEPCHE campuses and personnel to address the needs identified in the assessment. As part of this phase, the institutions will also begin implementation of the plan with a series of pilot programs related to those needs.

“We are thrilled to receive this grant from Lumina Foundation,” said Sister Patricia Fadden, Chair of the SEPCHE Presidents Council, and President of Immaculata University, as it will help us fulfill our collective and individual missions by making our campuses more aware of the needs of our increasingly diverse student populations of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and instituting practices that will make them more successful.”

Lumina Foundation for Education is an Indianapolis-based, private, independent foundation dedicated to expanding access and success in education beyond high school.

SEPCHE is a consortium of eight independent higher education institutions in the Greater Philadelphia region who engage in a collaborative approach to the challenges of higher education and work together to promote quality and efficiency of academic programming, student access, faculty development, institutional operations and community outreach, through sharing a range of activities, services, technology and information. Member schools of SEPCHE include Arcadia University, Cabrini College, Chestnut Hill College, Gwynedd-Mercy College, Holy Family University, Immaculata University, Neumann College and Rosemont College.

For more information on SEPCHE and its programs, please call Brigid Blake, executive director of SEPCHE, at 215-572-8543.