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Social Giving Club Provides More Opportunities for Youth

Albuquerque, NM – Albuquerque’s Social Giving Club has awarded a \$25,000 grant to Future Focused Education. The grant will provide new opportunities for underserved students who are learning about trades and professions that interest them and how they can see themselves developing and working within various industries.

Future Focused Education works with local employers to provide internship opportunities for high school students to learn about potential careers. The internships provide much needed opportunities for our disengaged youth to find professions or trades that interest them and learn the role their education plays in attaining a job they want to do.

The program provides a bridge for students from the Leadership Schools Network to life after high school that puts them on a path toward higher education and living-wage employment. These schools include ACE Leadership High School, Technology Leadership High School, Health Leadership High School and Siembra Leadership High School.

“Through our Future Focused Internship Program, forward-thinking employers contribute to providing underserved and underrepresented students with authentic learning experiences that develop the skills and character necessary for these students to overcome barriers and become successful leaders in their communities and in their future professions,” said Tony Monfiletto. “This grant will help us further develop the program to support students with mentors and other opportunities as they move from school either into a profession or into more schooling.”

The program has many partner employers that provide internships opportunities. Marv Proctor, the president of The Improve Group, has worked with Future Focused Education and highly praises the program. He said his employees have increased their leadership and coaching skills working with the students. While he said it is not necessarily an employee recruiting strategy, he said they have had a student go on to work for them.

Proctor said it is more about knowing that we need programs like this that make a long-term community investment in our youth. “It is fun to see them get excited about a

potential job they didn't even know existed before," said Proctor. "We have had students that had no plans to go to college, change their minds after their internship. That's rewarding."

This marks the 3rd year that the Social Giving Club has made a \$25,000 grant into the community. Previous grantees were Cultivating Coders and St. Martin's HopeWorks. The Social Giving Club is part of the Albuquerque Community Foundation. Its members have each donated \$1,000 to be part of the club and take part in the selection of each recipient. The club's members pool their resources together to significantly impact our community.

"Our Social Giving Club is creating a new narrative around collective impact and strategic grantmaking in Albuquerque," said Kelli Cooper, Vice President of Philanthropy at the Albuquerque Community Foundation. "Now in its third year, we can see the success of the programs supported in the past and its members can see the impact of their dollars in our community."

The **Albuquerque Community Foundation** administers a permanent community endowment comprised of many gifts, large and small, and uses the earning from that endowment to make grants to other nonprofit organizations. Since its establishment in 1981, the Foundation has distributions of nearly \$52.5 million through its grant and scholarship programs.

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