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**THE RENNIE CENTER FOR EDUCATION RESEARCH & POLICY AWARDED \$100,000**

*Massachusetts nonprofit receives Cummings Foundation Grant*

June 18, 2018 – The [Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy](http://renniecenter.org) is one of 100 local nonprofits to receive \$100,000 through the Cummings Foundation’s “\$100K for 100” program. The organization was chosen from a total of 597 applicants during a competitive review process.

The Rennie Center will use this funding to support select school districts in Middlesex, Essex, and/or Suffolk Counties in designing initiatives to support the development of students’ social and emotional skills. These skills—like persistence, empathy, and healthy decision-making—are tied to better academic performance, higher college graduation rates, increased employment and wages, lower risk of substance abuse and criminal activity, and better overall health and well-being.

“While Massachusetts leads the nation in academics, much more can be done to address the non-cognitive learning needs of students in the Commonwealth. To prepare young people for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we need to embed social and emotional learning into the core of the student experience. This will help us prepare students for the work force, close achievements gaps, and address the learning needs of each child,” said Chad d’Entremont, Executive Director of the Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy. “We are so grateful to the Cummings Foundation for supporting this important work.”

Rennie Center representatives joined approximately 300 other guests at a reception at the TradeCenter 128 in Woburn to celebrate the \$10 million infusion into Greater Boston’s nonprofit sector. With the conclusion of this grant cycle, Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than \$220 million to Greater Boston nonprofits alone.

“We are indebted to the nonprofit organizations like the Rennie Center that have a meaningful positive impact on the local communities where our colleagues and clients live and work,” said Joel Swets, Cummings Foundation Executive Director. “We are delighted to invest in their important programs and services.”

This year’s diverse group of grant recipients represents a wide variety of causes, including homelessness prevention and affordable housing, education, violence prevention, and food

insecurity. Most of the grants will be paid over two to five years. The complete list of 100 grant winners is available at [www.cummingsfoundation.org](http://www.cummingsfoundation.org).

Cummings foundation announced an additional \$10 million in early May through its new Sustaining Grants, which extend “100K for 100” funding for previous winners for 10 more years. Beginning in 2019, the foundation will increase its total giving through these two programs from \$20 million to \$25 million.

***The Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy’s** mission is to improve public education through well-informed decision-making based on deep knowledge and evidence of effective policymaking and practice. As Massachusetts’ preeminent voice in public education reform, we create open spaces for educators and policymakers to consider evidence, discuss cutting-edge issues, and develop new approaches to advance student learning and achievement. Through our staunch commitment to independent, non-partisan research and constructive conversations, we work to promote an education system that provides every child with the opportunity to be successful in school and in life. For more information, please visit [www.renniecenter.org](http://www.renniecenter.org).*

***Cummings Foundation** was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities in Marlborough and Woburn. Bill Cummings release his self-written memoir, “Starting Small and Making It Big: An Entrepreneur’s Journey to Billion-Dollar Philanthropist,” in March 2018. Additional information is available at [www.CummingsFoundation.org](http://www.CummingsFoundation.org) and [www.cummings.com/book](http://www.cummings.com/book).*

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