

Date: September 18, 2025

To: Lincoln School Committee

From: Lincoln Scholarship Committee (LSC)

Re: **2025 LSC Annual Report**

Lincoln Scholarship Committee Members:

For the 2024-2025 academic year, the continuing members of the Lincoln Scholarship Committee included Carolyn Dwyer (appointed by the Town Moderator), Aldis Russell (appointed by the Select Board) and Carol Lovell Carmody (appointed by the Lincoln School Committee).

Committee Process:

As in prior years, LSC activities are concentrated in the months of January through June. Starting in January, Lincoln high school seniors are informed of the availability of LSC administered awards and scholarships. This outreach begins with a letter detailing (1) each of the scholarships/awards administered by the LSC, including eligibility requirements, and (2) the application process. This letter is disseminated through email and on the LSRHS website from the Superintendent of LSRHS; the content is also posted in each house at LSRHS as well as directly communicated with the Metco coordinator at LSRHS. In addition, it is shared with the Minuteman Community should there be any eligible students. Finally, it is announced in both the Lincoln Squirrel and on Lincoln Talk. Application materials are also annually reviewed and updated by the LSC. Application materials are also annually reviewed and updated by the LSC, and are made available online via the LSC page on the Town of Lincoln website. For this year, the application cycle opened on February 1, 2025. Application materials were due by the end of March and in person student interviews took place in late April/early May.

LSC also raises funds to support many of the LSC scholarships and awards. The LSC's annual fundraising process starts in April with an appeal letter distributed to all households in Lincoln via a townwide mailing to solicit their financial support.

In 2025 the LSC also worked closely with the Trustees of the Ogden Codman Trust to review the two scholarships that are funded by the Trust – the Ogden Codman Scholarship and the Codman Opportunity Scholarship. As a result of this review, several changes were made including increasing the amounts of both scholarship awards in light of ever escalating college costs. Another important process change was the Trustees' decision to discontinue their prior practice of naming two Codman Trust Representatives to work with the LSC to evaluate applications for the Codman scholarships. They concluded that this practice created replication of what the LSC does in the scholarship administration process, and is no longer necessary.

This year, we had a more robust group of applicants – there were nine applicants that were eligible for at least one of the scholarship/awards. It is worth noting that our universe of applicants is limited, as there were only 39 total Lincoln residents in the LSRHS Class of 2025. After the review of applications and completion of in person interviews, decisions on recipients were finalized and this year were formally announced by the LSC at the LSRHS awards ceremony which took place on May 28, 2025.

Awards:

- Fannie S. Campbell Award for academic achievement. This one-time award (\$500) recognizes overall scholastic excellence as well as superior achievement in a particular discipline or area of interest. Each student applicant must submit an essay. This year there were six applicants for this award. This year's award recipient is **Alex Stewart**, a student with an exceptional academic record who will attend Georgia Tech in the fall.
- Sumner Smith Community Service Award. This one-time award (\$500) recognizes a student that has contributed in a significant manner to a community need. This year there were five applicants for this award. This year's award recipient is **Xzavyer Figueroa**, whose contributions to the Lincoln Community were impressive and who displayed unusual maturity in dealing with family challenges. Xzavyer will attend Wentworth Institute of Technology in the fall.

Scholarships:

- Ogden Codman Scholarships: As previously noted, in coordination with the Codman Trustees, certain aspects of the Codman and LSC scholarship process were consolidated this year. There was general agreement that these process improvements were very positive. The scholarships funded by the Codman Trustees and this year's recipients of these multi-year awards are as follows:
 - 1) Ogden Codman Scholarship (\$7,500 for each of 4 years, increased this year from \$5,000): This scholarship is awarded to a Lincoln resident student who has demonstrated both a high level of academic achievement and strong leadership qualities in LSRHS activities and town community service. There were seven applicants for this scholarship this year. This year's recipient is **Zalen Stason**, who had an exceptional academic record at LSRHS, but also demonstrated an impressive work ethic and unusual entrepreneurial success at a very young age. Zalen will attend Babson in the fall, intending to pursue his interest in real estate finance and affordable housing.
 - 2) Codman Opportunity Scholarship (\$5,000 for each of four years, increased this year from \$2,500): This scholarship is awarded to a Lincoln student that plans on attending a two or four year college, vocational school or other post-secondary study or training program. Student potential and commitment to success in a specific field or trade are all important decision factors. There were seven applicants for this scholarship this year. This year's recipient is **Xzavyer Figueroa**. Xzavyer was a strong and dedicated student through high school, a significant contributor to the Lincoln Community. As previously noted, Xzavyer will attend Wentworth starting this fall.
- Harriet Backus Todd Scholarship (\$5,000 offered for one year and renewable for a second year): The purpose of this relatively new scholarship (est. 2021) is to encourage students pursuing post secondary studies and/or training consistent with Harriet Todd's lifetime of devotion to public service and voluntarism and recognizing commitment and passion for a broad range of civic concerns. The scholarship is funded by a bequest to the Town of Lincoln by long time resident Harriet Todd. This is our first scholarship that is open to students who are not residents of Lincoln, but who have attended Lincoln Schools in grades 5-8 and are graduating from LSRHS or Minuteman Technical school. There were six applicants for this scholarship this year. This year's recipient is **Matthew Sudnick**, an exceptional student and someone who has demonstrated appreciation for his various communities by volunteering and serving on committees. Matthew will attend URI this fall.

- Lincoln Community Scholarships: The Lincoln Scholarship Committee offers several scholarships that are primarily needs-based and that are dependent (at least in part) on the community's response to the annual appeal letter and on the number of applicants. These scholarships are generally in the \$1,000 to \$5,000 range for one year only. There were seven applicants for these scholarships this year. Based on the qualifications of the applicants and on the successful prior year fundraising effort, we made awards to six of the seven applicants: **Alex Stewart, Annette Sjoquist, Bodie Thompson, Nina Gill, Ryan Miller and Lucas Barker.**

Fundraising Results:

2025 appeal: Through August 1, Lincoln community members have contributed over \$6,400 to the Lincoln Scholarship Committee's 2025 appeal. This YTD amount is fairly consistent with prior years where the expectation would be for achieving a total goal of \$5,000 - \$10,000. In general, contributions are received beginning almost immediately after the town wide mailing in April, with the bulk of annual contributions coming in the first two months after the mailing. However, contributions continue to be received throughout the calendar year. Most contributions are in the \$50-\$100 range, but many are larger. Most contributions are received via mailed check, but increasingly donors are taking advantage of an ACH payment option on the LSC page of the town website (<http://www.lincolntown.org/645/Lincoln-Scholarship-Committee>).

Looking Forward:

Going forward, the following areas are in our sights:

- Outreach: We were gratified with the more robust applicant pool that we had this year. Despite this positive progress, our attentiveness to timely and effective outreach regarding the availability and eligibility for LSC awards will continue to be a priority. However, we do have to acknowledge that the numbers of Lincoln School students graduating from high school will continue to be relatively finite and most of our scholarships require demonstration of need.
- Federal Student Funding: The Federal student funding landscape will continue to be subject to considerable uncertainty. Over the past few years, our applicants have been dealing with significant and confusing changes in the application for Federal Aid (FAFSA) which has for years been the primary need determination document for schools; now uncertainty exists as to what Federal funding options may even be available and at what cost. The LSC will be paying close attention to developments in this space.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Lovell Carmody (on behalf of the LSC)