Lincoln Foundation’s signature Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® annually recruits academically talented, economically disadvantaged seventh grade students in the Louisville Metro area and over a six-year period prepares them for high school graduation and college. Eligible students must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and qualify for free or reduced lunch. The Scholars program serves approximately 250 Scholars per year in grades 7-12 through its three educational components:

- **Gheens Foundation Educational Clinics** develop and enhance Scholar skills in science, mathematics, writing and language development, oration and presentation (Shakespeare and conflict resolution), ACT preparation, and college readiness. Clinics are held at local area colleges and educational venues on the first and third Saturday of the month during the academic year.

- **Summer Institutes** for grades 10-12 allow Scholars to spend two weeks on a college/university campus. This academic and residential experience prepares them for their upcoming school year and future college life. Summer educational programs for grades 7-9 prepare Scholars for future courses in math, science, and technology.

- **Parental Institutes** help parents become better advocates for their Scholars. Seminars address financial literacy and planning, adolescent behavior, conflict resolution, stress management, leadership development, understanding test scores, and how to select the best school. Meetings are held at Spalding University on the third Saturday of the month during the academic year.

Lincoln Foundation assists Scholars and their families in identifying and obtaining scholarships and financial aid for post-secondary education. Guidance and scholarship assistance continue throughout the Scholars’ college years. Scholars receive scholarships each college semester as an incentive for continued academic achievement. Lincoln Foundation has awarded an average of $61,000 per year in scholarships in the past five years.

Dr. Samuel Robinson, President Emeritus, created the Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® in 1990. The program was named for Dr. Whitney M. Young, Sr., graduate and first African American President of the Lincoln Institute, and his son Dr. Whitney M. Young, Jr., noted educator, statesman, and human rights advocate. The acronym YOUNG stands for Youth Organized to Understand New Goals. The ultimate goal of our signature educational program is academic achievement and college graduation.

The Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® has a proven track record:
- 100% annual high school graduation
- 100+ undergraduate and graduate college degrees earned in past 5 years
- 200+ Scholars currently enrolled at accredited colleges or universities.

**Mission**  
To provide educational enrichment programs that develop and support youth in overcoming barriers to achievement
Educational Programs

Lincoln Foundation has empowered disadvantaged youth to overcome adversity through education since its inception by Berea College over 100 years ago. It is our belief that students can break the cycle of poverty in their families through higher education. Our primary purpose is to holistically develop students in an educational culture that stresses academic achievement and graduation from college. Lincoln Foundation annually serves approximately 400 students ages two through college with its year-round, nontraditional educational enrichment programs.

Math & Science Program
The Math & Science summer program held at the UofL College of Arts and Sciences engages high school students in a real world laboratory setting. Approximately 100 high school students in grades 9-12 gather information, conduct scientific investigations, solve problems, design projects, and present sustainable solutions. The program utilizes STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) teaching strategies to help students research three focus areas of biodiversity, water quality, and energy. Program partners include Jefferson County Public Schools, UofL College of Arts and Sciences, UPS, GE, and LG&E and KU Energy LLC.

Project BUILD
Project BUILD (Business United In Leadership Development) is a mini-MBA program held at the UofL College of Business. The summer program introduces promising multicultural high school juniors and seniors to the world of business through collegiate level business courses and interaction with corporations, executives, and entrepreneurs. Courses of study include accounting, economics, finance, entrepreneurship, management, and marketing. Program partners include the UofL College of Business, WellCare, Brown-Forman, Old National Bank, Humana, and The Mary E. Yarbrough Fund at The Community Foundation of Louisville.

Library Reading Programs
The afterschool Portland and Western Library Reading Programs provide remedial and developmental reading instruction to at-risk students reading below grade level. The programs serve students in grades 1-3 at Portland Elementary School and Coleridge-Taylor Montessori Elementary School. Students living in those neighborhoods may also attend. The library reading programs are held three days per week from mid-October to mid-April.

Educational Opportunity Scholarship
A group of anonymous donors established the Educational Opportunity Scholarship program to cover the cost of educating a child from preschool through college. Recipients are typically minority children between ages 2-3 who come from disadvantaged families and are at risk of not completing high school or going to college. Scholarship monies cover tuition, books, and room/board.

Historical Timeline
1904 Passage of the Day Law halts interracial education at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky.
1908 Day Law is ruled constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.
1909 Berea College Board of Trustees purchases 444.4 acres in Lincoln Ridge, KY, the site of Lincoln Institute.
1910 Lincoln Institute becomes a legal entity and the Lincoln Institute of Kentucky Board of Trustees is established to oversee and manage its assets.
1911 Cornerstone for Berea Hall is laid in October.
1912 The Lincoln Institute is dedicated and 85 black students enroll on October 1.
1928 The junior college is closed in order to focus on the core mission of being an elite boarding high school for blacks.
1947 Lincoln Institute becomes a public school. Lincoln Institute of Kentucky is renamed the Lincoln Foundation.
1949 Whitney Young, Sr. is named the first black president of the Institute after having served as principal since 1935.
1950 Kentucky General Assembly repeals the Day Law. Kentucky slowly begins the process of integrating schools.
1954 The U.S. Supreme Court’s Brown vs. Board of Education decision strikes down “separate but equal” education.
1966 The rise of desegregated education forces closure of Lincoln Institute. The Lincoln School for gifted yet disadvantaged students is established on the institute property.
1970 The Lincoln School closes with one graduating class.
1972 The Whitney M. Young, Jr. Job Corps Center opens on the Institute campus under contract with the U.S. Dept. of Labor.
1974 Lincoln Foundation President, J. Mansir Tydings, retires and Dr. Samuel Robinson is appointed Executive Director and later President.
1990 The Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program®, is created to serve the educational needs of academically talented, economically disadvantaged middle/high school students.
2001 Board of Trustees Vice Chair, Larry M. McDonald, is appointed President.
2010 Lincoln Foundation celebrated its 100th Anniversary.
2012 Lincoln Institute celebrated its 100th Anniversary on October 1st.