



Bottom Line - Boston-Based National Nonprofit – Hosts Eleventh Annual *Get In, Graduate and Go Far* Dinner

‘The Power of a Degree’ Fundraiser celebrated with Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh and Event Chair, Dr. Jeffrey Leiden of Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Boston – April 5, 2016– Bottom Line Massachusetts – the founding site of the national nonprofit organization helping low-income and first-generation students get into college and graduate – will host its 11th Annual *Get In, Graduate and Go Far* Dinner. The event will be held from 5:30 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, April 6 at the Boston Convention Center. All proceeds will help Bottom Line provide one-on-one mentoring to students across Massachusetts.

This year’s fundraiser theme, “The Power of a Degree” will celebrate Bottom Line’s impactful programming. Currently, one in four college-bound seniors from the City of Boston receives support from Bottom Line either during the college application process, throughout college or both.

Honored guests and keynote speakers at the *Go Far* Dinner include **Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh** and **Bottom Line Event Chair Dr. Jeffrey Leiden**, M.D., Ph.D., Chairman, President and CEO of Vertex Pharmaceuticals. This year’s featured student speaker is **Porcha McConnell**, who will graduate from Bridgewater State University with a degree in Social Work this spring. Porcha will give a first-hand account of her journey towards her degree through the support of Bottom Line.

The event will bring together more than a 1,000 greater Boston business and industry leaders - and will include a silent and live auction, followed by a dinner and speaking program.

“Vertex is proud to support Bottom Line in helping all students in Boston fully access the opportunities unlocked by a college education – the opportunity for students to realize their full potential, to participate meaningfully in our society and our innovation economy and to make a better way for themselves and their families,” said Dr. Leiden.

“Motivated, talented students can and will graduate from college if they have access to the resources and support that all young people need to succeed. In Boston, Worcester, and across Massachusetts, there are students every day who walk away from their education because they can’t find that critical support. But Bottom Line has changed that for thousands of young people. We are proud of the role we can play in the success of the communities we support. The funds we raise at the Annual Dinner will allow our organization to support more than 3,400 students throughout Massachusetts in the coming year,” said Mike Wasserman, Executive Director

The *Get In, Graduate and Go Far Dinner*, is generously sponsored by Vertex, State Street, Walmart, MFS Investment Management and Stop & Shop, which are providing key funding in support of Bottom Line’s mission to help students get into college, graduate, and go far in life.

Additional sponsors of the fundraiser include; PWC, Brigham & Women's Hospital, RBC, Suffolk Construction, Putnam Investments and a host of other dedicated sponsors.

Last year's benefit raised a little over \$1 million and this year, Bottom Line is hoping to raise \$1.25 million through ticket sales, sponsorships, the "fund-a-future" initiative and the evening's auctions.

For 19 years, Bottom Line has sought to support first-generation and low-income students by helping them get in to college, graduate from college, and begin a meaningful career. This support is provided through two core programs. The Access program provides college-bound high school seniors with one-on-one counseling through every step of the college and financial aid application, helping students GET IN to a college that fits academically, personally, and financially. The Success program provides students with key support throughout their college experience with one-on-one counseling, academic support, financial guidance, career development, and the emotional and social support to help a student overcome the challenges and obstacles that can stand in the way of their pathway to success.

To support Bottom Line in its goal, tickets can be purchased for \$500 for individuals or for \$6,000 for a table of 10 at www.bottomline.org/boston-dinner-tickets.aspx. For more ticket and corporate sponsorship information, contact Jen Scherck at jscherck@bottomline.org or 617-524-8833.

About Bottom Line – Massachusetts

Bottom Line was founded in Boston in 1997 to help students get into college, graduate from college, and go far in life. What started as an organization supporting 25 Boston high school seniors has grown to support more than 3,000 high school senior and college students from Boston and Worcester, Massachusetts. With the launch of their offices in Worcester (2008), New York City (2010) and Chicago (2014), Bottom Line has become a national nonprofit that serves thousands of college students through its full-scale college retention program for low-income and first-generation urban students. With Bottom Line's support, students across the country are earning college degrees, beginning successful careers, and raising themselves and their families out of poverty. Learn more at www.bottomline.org, [@BottomLineMA](https://www.instagram.com/BottomLineMA), [facebook.com/bottomlineinc](https://www.facebook.com/bottomlineinc), [#PowerOfADegree](https://www.tiktok.com/@PowerOfADegree) and Instagram [@BottomLineMA](https://www.instagram.com/BottomLineMA)

About Vertex

Vertex is a global biotechnology company that aims to discover, develop and commercialize innovative medicines so people with serious diseases can lead better lives. In addition to our clinical development programs focused on cystic fibrosis, Vertex has more than a dozen ongoing research programs aimed at other serious and life-threatening diseases. Vertex is also a proud contributor to the local community dedicated to inspiring and equipping the next generation of scientific leaders through our comprehensive science, technology, math and engineering (STEM) programs. For six years in a row, Science magazine has named Vertex one of its Top Employers in the life sciences. For additional information and the latest updates from the company, please visit www.vrtx.com.

For more information, please contact:

Paul Gates or Mariellen Norris, Regan Communications

617-488-2853 (o), 617-869-4052 (c), pgates@regancomm.com or

617-592-5637, 617-678-5805 (c), mnorris@regancomm.com

Alicia Adamson, Bottom Line, 617-524-8833 (o), 617-276-7134 (c), aadamson@bottomline.org