

The Trustees of the Davis Educational Foundation have recently analyzed the impact of the Foundation's Presidential Grant program and are pleased to share these highlights.

The Presidential Grant Program is a permanent, ongoing program of the Davis Educational Foundation that seeks to assist college and university leaders in laying the foundation to redesign ongoing practices with intent to **contain cost increases and improve college affordability**. The program was conceived as a low-barrier entry point to the Davis Educational Foundation's grantmaking. Funding is available at two levels: up to \$2,500 for first-step awareness building activities that broadly engage the campus community, or up to \$10,000 for follow-up or longer term, deeper exploration or pilot initiatives.

Since 2015, DEF has awarded 68 Presidential Grants to 60 institutions, for a total of \$778, 940.

Successful applicants have used funding to support diverse cost-reduction efforts, including:

- *Strategic Planning*: elevating the focus of cost and affordability in strategic planning processes with campus leadership and trustees.
- *Campus Financial Literacy*: efforts to educate the wider campus community—including faculty members— about budgeting, the financial health of the institution, and the economic picture for higher education writ large.
- *Degree Path*: activities targeting accelerated graduation, increased retention, and improved persistence.
- *Administrative or Academic Restructuring*: redesigning structures and processes within these areas.
- *Curricular Efficiency*: maximizing campus resources to increase priority student outcomes.
- *Collaboration*: efforts to reduce costs by sharing services and/or systems between institutions.

"We used our Presidential Grant to pilot an option for rising sophomores in good academic standing to live off-campus, attend classes online, and work part-time, at a savings of approximately 35% of the normal tuition rate. That program was so successful that we decided to offer an expanded lower-cost initiative, *Lasell Works*, where students can earn professional experience throughout their time here while paying a declining tuition rate each year."

*Michael Alexander, President
Lasell College*

2015 Presidential Grant and 2017 Implementation Grant Recipient



"I will now have an informed perspective on financial aspects of management of my department and on policy for the school. What I learned today was an eye-opener."

*Faculty Workshop Participant
Colleges of the Fenway
2016 Presidential Grant Recipient*



Eligibility

The Davis Educational Foundation encourages submissions to continue work already begun by campuses or to launch new activities. New England-based four-year degree granting colleges and universities are welcome to apply. Prior recipients of Presidential Grants remain eligible to submit additional requests. The maximum grant term is one year.

"The Presidential Grant Program aims to help institutions examine the structural issues that contribute to high costs. There is no simple solution to this complex problem, but we have seen the considerable talent, creativity, and leadership residing on our campuses do much to address this challenge."

*William Reed, Trustee Emeritus
Davis Educational Foundation*

"The Foundation's founders Stanton and Elisabeth Davis hoped to encourage and assist cost reduction efforts at colleges and universities throughout New England. This program directly addresses their vision."

*Peter Davis, Trustee
Davis Educational Foundation*

For More Information

Contact:

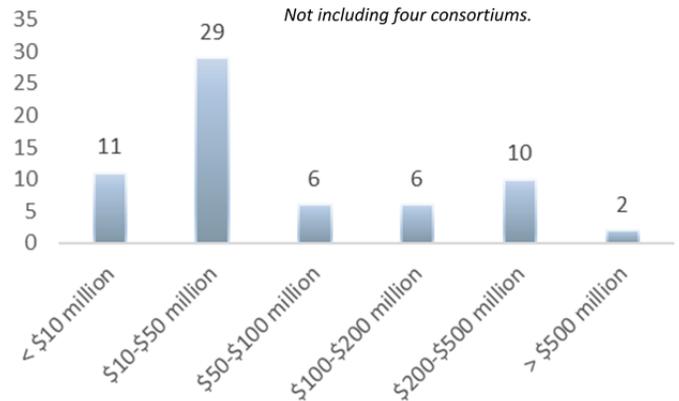
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Information is also available on our website:

<http://davisfoundations.org/def>

Presidential Grants by Institutional Endowment Size



Twelve campuses receiving Presidential Grants have gone on to receive a total of \$2,165,318 in cost-focused Implementation Grants from the Davis Educational Foundation.

About the Davis Educational Foundation

The Davis Educational Foundation, established as a public charitable foundation in 1985, supports the undergraduate programs of public and private, regionally accredited, baccalaureate degree granting colleges and universities throughout the six New England states. Elisabeth K. Davis and Stanton W. Davis co-founded the foundation after Mr. Davis's retirement as chairman of Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc. The foundation is an expression of the couple's shared support and value for higher education and has provided more than \$115 million in grants to 174 institutions.

Eligibility & Application for the Presidential Grant Program

Eligible institutions include all four-year public and private, non-profit baccalaureate granting institutions based in New England. Current grantees are eligible for Presidential Grants.

The Presidential Grant Program exists alongside the Foundation's implementation grants for its teaching and learning and cost-containment objectives. Funding through the Presidential Grant program does not affect eligibility for teaching and learning grants or future larger scale cost-containment grants.

Send a letter of no more than two pages describing proposed activities, timeframe, anticipated outcome, requested amount and project leader. Projects must address cost containment and student affordability. Please see the program description page for examples of eligible projects.

Institutions successfully completing Level One grants will be eligible to apply for follow-up Level Two grants. Campuses that have already engaged their community around this topic may apply for Level Two funding.

Funding decisions are made on a monthly basis for requests received by the first day of the month.

OBJECTIVES

The Foundation seeks to strengthen the undergraduate programs of public and private, regionally accredited, baccalaureate degree granting colleges and universities in New England. The Foundation is interested in supporting more effective teaching and learning. The Foundation is interested in controlling costs.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Foundation has funded:

Projects that improve the curriculum, the learning environment, assessment of undergraduate learning outcomes, faculty development, incentive systems, and administrative structures.

Collaborative efforts among colleges and universities to reduce costs and improve learning.

Studies and planning efforts central to the Foundation's concerns and interests.

The Foundation does not fund endowments or scholarships nor does it make grants to capital campaigns. The Foundation typically does not make concurrent awards to institutions.



Application Submission Instructions

2021 Submission deadlines:

Applications must be received in the foundation office **by noon on:**

March 15, May 14, and October 1

PLEASE NOTE:

- **The Davis Educational Foundation plans to transition to an online application portal for the October 1, 2021 deadline.**
- We expect the portal to be open in early September, 2021.
- The substance of the online application will not differ from the existing application form, so we urge applicants for this deadline to use this application form for planning purposes.
- For specific questions, please contact def@davisfoundations.org.

Grant Application

Please review the Foundation's funding objectives prior to completing this application. The objectives may be found on our website or by contacting the Foundation. The Foundation does not have a pre-proposal or letter of inquiry requirement, but we strongly urge you to contact Foundation staff prior to preparing a proposal.

Organization Name _____ IRS Tax ID Number _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

President's Name _____ E-mail Address _____

Project Contact Person _____

Position _____

E-mail Address _____ Telephone Number _____

Development Officer _____

Title _____

E-mail Address _____ Telephone Number _____

Project Title _____

Project Budget _____ Request Amount _____ Request Term (months) _____

Start Date: Mo/Yr _____ End Date: Mo/Yr _____

Brief Project Description:

Submission Requirements: All deadlines require printed materials be received at the DEF office by noon on the deadline date.*

I. Project Narrative. (8 copies + electronic copy in word processing format, minimum 12 pt. font)

Please attach a concise five-page narrative that includes:

Please paginate project and budget narratives and observe page number limit.

1. A description of the project, its purpose, leadership, methods, and timetable for implementation.
2. A description of the specific outcomes expected, their importance, and the method of determining whether those outcomes have been achieved.
3. A short statement describing the institution's mission and unique qualities. If necessary, this page may be appended to the five page project narrative addressing items #1 and #2.

II. Project Budget and Budget Narrative. (8 copies + electronic copy as spreadsheet and/or word processing document)

1. A detailed project budget displayed by year, including expenses to be assumed by the institution.
2. A supporting narrative that provides additional detail for proposed budget items and relates budget items to the project narrative.

III. Audited Financial Statements. (3 copies with proposal; electronic copy not required)

Submission Deadlines: All deadlines require printed copies of items I, II, and III be received by noon at the DEF office on the deadline date.

Upcoming deadline dates:

- **March 15, 2021**
- **October 1, 2021**
- **May 14, 2021**
- **March 15, 2022**

Budget Preparation Notes

How does the Foundation view proposal budgets?

Grants are provided to support innovation and adoption of practices that improve teaching and learning outcomes and/or the cost efficiency of the institution. Generally, funding requests may include items that are not included in the college or university's budget. Grant funds are not awarded to provide budget relief.

Which personnel expenses are eligible for funding?

If faculty participation in the funded project will require work deemed outside of their normal responsibilities, grant funds may be budgeted for faculty stipends or for course release. Eligible course release expenses are those actual costs incurred to hire replacement instructors. Administrators on salaried full year contracts are typically expected to oversee or participate in special projects; their salaries are seldom eligible for grant support.

Fringe benefit expenses are also treated on an actual cost incurred basis. When a stipend is paid, legally mandated taxes and insurance – and sometimes retirement – expenses are incurred and may be included in the grant budget. Full fringe benefit rates that include health insurance and other benefits may not be charged on stipends.

What about new positions?

The Foundation carefully scrutinizes requests involving new positions due to the associated carry forward expense to the institution and our philosophical aversion to contributing to increased costs. We do recognize, however, that there are instances when a new position is justified. For budgets containing newly-created positions, we expect the institution to assume an increased portion of the expense over the life of the grant.

What are the Foundation's expectations regarding institutional match?

We look for proposals that address institutional priorities. If a campus is requesting external funding for a project, its commitment to the project should be evident in many ways including the budget. Amounts and percentages will vary by project and institution, but the commitment must be clear.

What items are not eligible for funding?

In addition to the personnel discussion above, the foundation does not fund international travel, automobile leases or purchases, new construction and retrofitting, furnishings, scholarships, indirect or overhead expenses.

The Davis Educational Foundation does not fund endowments or scholarships nor does it make grants to capital campaigns. The foundation recognizes that project-specific proposals may coincide with the timing of an institution's capital campaign. Such proposals, that otherwise meet the foundation's objectives and criteria, are eligible for consideration.

Does the Davis Educational Foundation make multiple-year awards?

Yes. The foundation recognizes that the objectives it strives to achieve frequently require multi-year initiatives. Many of the foundation's grants are for two or three year periods. Three years is the maximum term for which funding may be requested.

Please see the Foundation's website for additional Frequently Asked Questions and for updated submission requirements:
www.davisfoundations.org