



## **2017 Annual Report**

## **History and Mission**

The Davis Educational Foundation was established by Stanton and Elisabeth Davis after Mr. Davis's retirement as chairman of Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc. in 1985. The Foundation seeks to strengthen regionally accredited baccalaureate degree granting colleges and universities (public and private) located in New England. The Foundation is interested in supporting more effective teaching and learning.

## **Objectives**

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.

## Grant Programs

The Foundation operates two grant programs. Implementation Grants represent the Foundation's long-standing grant program and serve the Foundation's objectives of improving teaching and learning and/or controlling costs and increasing student affordability. Applications for Implementation Grants are accepted three times each year on March 15, May 15 and October 1. When the date falls on a weekend or holiday, submissions must be received by noon on the deadline date or the preceding business day.

The Presidential Grant Program was more recently introduced as an entry point for addressing cost and affordability objectives. The Presidential Grant Program seeks to assist college and university leaders in laying the foundation for campus-specific or collaborative initiatives to redesign ongoing practices with intent to contain cost increases and improve college affordability. Presidential Grant requests are accepted on a rolling basis for decision the following month.

Please see the Foundation's website [www.davisfoundations.org/def](http://www.davisfoundations.org/def) for additional information on the grant programs, to view and download application instructions, and for listings of recently-funded grants by topic. Prospective applicants are strongly urged to contact Foundation staff to discuss proposal ideas prior to submission.

**DAVIS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

Balance Sheets  
December 31, 2017

**ASSETS**

Investments	<b>\$111,184,299</b>
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	<b>2,066</b>
Due from related parties	<b><u>51,091</u></b>
 Total assets	 <b><u>\$111,237,456</u></b>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

Liabilities	
Accrued expenses	<b>\$ 78,549</b>
Grants payable	<b>3,163,488</b>
Due to related party	<b><u>41,287</u></b>
Total liabilities	<b><u>3,283,324</u></b>
 Net assets	
Unrestricted net assets	<b><u>107,954,132</u></b>
 Total liabilities and net assets	 <b><u>\$111,237,456</u></b>

**DAVIS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

Statement of Activities  
Year Ended December 31, 2017

Changes in unrestricted net assets	
Revenues and other gains	
Return on investments	
Interest and dividends	\$ 898,659
Investment management and custodial fees	(410,711)
Net realized gains on sale of investments	3,875,255
Net unrealized gains on investments	<u>12,144,347</u>
Total return on investments	16,507,550
Tax refund	<u>9,290</u>
Total revenues and other gains	<u>16,516,840</u>
Expenses	
Program services	
Grants, net of returns	5,093,985
Trustee fees	140,000
Travel	<u>19,287</u>
Total program services expenses	<u>5,253,272</u>
Total management and general	<u>280,158</u>
Total expenses	<u>5,533,430</u>
Change in unrestricted net assets	10,983,410
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>96,970,722</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$107,954,132</u>

**Davis Educational Foundation**  
**Grants Made and Payable**  
**During the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

**Becker College**

Worcester, MA  
Agile Mindset Capstone Course and Assessment Tool  
\$115,100 over 2 years  
Project Leader: Amber Vail

*To develop the capstone course, provide faculty development, and develop a customized assessment tool for the Agile Mindset program.*

**Bennington College**

Bennington, VT  
Presidential Grant  
\$10,000 over 1 year  
Project Leader: Mariko Silver

*To support Phase Two of Trustee Philanthropic Partnerships*

**Boston College**

Chestnut Hill, MA  
Inclusive Excellence Program  
\$75,000 over 1 year  
Project Leader: Stacy Grooters

*To support faculty in creating and sustaining inclusive and welcoming classrooms for an increasingly diverse student population.*

**Brown University**

Providence, RI  
Engaged Scholarship Faculty Fellows Program  
\$225,000 over 3 years  
Project Leader: Mathew Johnson

*To facilitate student, faculty and community partnerships that integrate teaching, research and practice to advance undergraduate scholarship addressing social challenges facing communities and society.*

**Castleton University**

Castleton, VT  
Integrative Learning Program  
\$154,166 over 2 years  
Project Leader: Jonathan Spiro

*To create an Integrative Learning Pathway within the General Education Program to encourage students to reflect on and connect their learning.*

**Clark University**

Worcester, MA  
Problems of Practice Courses  
\$158,095 over 2 years  
Project Leader: Matthew Malsky

*To create courses that allow students to connect what they learn in the classroom with real problems faced by professionals working in the social sciences field.*

**Colleges of the Fenway**

Boston, MA  
Innovative Shared Academic Programming  
\$100,000 over 1 year  
Project Leader: Claire A. Ramsbottom

*To increase the number of collaborations, across member colleges, leading to innovative shared academic programs while supporting student enrollment and retention.*

**Connecticut College**

New London, CT  
Presidential Grant  
\$10,000 over 1 year  
Project Leader: Katherine Bergeron

*To research and plan for a new, web-based platform that will allow three participating colleges to manage their procurement practices collaboratively to generate savings.*

**Curry College**

Milton, MA  
Presidential Grant  
\$2,500 over 1 year  
Project Leader: Carrie Cokely

*To conduct a retreat and course development for the Student Success Program.*

**Dartmouth College**

Hanover, NH  
DartWrite: College Writing Across Time and Contexts  
\$244,500 over 3 years  
Project Leader: Christiane K. Donahue

*To implement ePortfolios for all students and refine the directed self-placement process as tools for knowledge transfer within undergraduate writing.*

**Eastern Connecticut State University**

Willimantic, CT  
Critical Reading and Writing Across the Disciplines  
\$202,143 over 2 years  
Project Leader: Elsa Nunez

*Support for a two-year project to strengthen students' critical thinking, reading and writing skills beginning with the First Year Introduction (FYI 100) course and continuing through the Level 2 Writing Intensive (WI) course in each major.*

**Forum for the Future of Higher Education**

Cambridge, MA  
On Campus: The Higher Education Desk  
\$300,000 over 3 years  
Project Leader: Joel W. Meyerson

*Support for an editorial partnership between the Forum for the Future of Higher Education and WGBH Educational Foundation designed to inform the public around issues of higher education.*

**Gordon College**

Wenham, MA  
Developing a Learning Outcomes Ecosystem  
\$196,033 over 3 years  
Project Leader: Michael Hildebrandt

*To design and implement an assessment system of student learning outcomes and to develop faculty leaders who can partner with administrators in supporting the new program.*

**Johnson State College**

Johnson, VT  
General Education Program Design  
\$224,646 over 3 years  
Project Leader: Sharon M. Twigg

*To create a new general education program for Johnson State and Lyndon State Colleges as they unite to become Northern Vermont University.*

**Lasell College**

Newton, MA  
Lower Cost Models for Independent Colleges  
\$75,000 over 1 year  
Project Leader: Michael B. Alexander

*To sustain the collaboration as it explores innovative means of lowering the cost of attending small independent colleges.*

**Lasell College**

Newton, MA

Lasell Works: A Lower Cost Program Initiative

\$100,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: James Ostrow

*Support to expand a pilot lower cost alternative program of study for college sophomores by creating a full year of online education at significantly reduced cost.*

**Maine Campus Compact**

Portland, ME

Campuses for Environmental Stewardship

\$228,996 over 3 years

Project Leader: Sally Slovenski

*To support interdisciplinary faculty teams in creating or modifying courses to address environmental stewardship through community engagement. The project will span five New England states.*

**Marlboro College**

Marlboro, VT

Curriculum Development and Assessment of Student Learning

\$130,000 over 2 years

Project Leader: Richard Glejzer

*To support curriculum development and assessment of student learning outcomes.*

**Merrimack College**

North Andover, MA

Strengthening Experiential Education

\$229,346 over 3 years

Project Leader: Allan T. Weatherwax

*To institutionalize experiential education across the curricular, academic support and co-curricular offerings.*

**Middlebury College**

Middlebury, VT

Building the Digital Capstone

\$120,000 over 3 years

Project Leader: Timothy B. Spears

*Support for advancement of digital pedagogy through courses focused on digital learning and research and the creation of senior work in digital form.*

**New England College**

Henniker, NH

Campus-Wide Collaboration for Student Success

\$76,400 over 6 months

Project Leader: Michele Perkins

*Support to develop a Student Success Plan and a Center for Student Success for first-year students.*

**Regis College**

Weston, MA

From Idea to Ideal: Activating the Potential of the e-Portfolio

\$172,926 over 2 years

Project Leader: Kathryn Edney

*To guide the Regis community in utilizing e-Portfolios to support reflective integrative learning among students and to aid the College in the assessment of student learning.*

**Rivier University**

Nashua, NH

Strengths Based Well Being: Connecting Learning and Life

\$205,379 over 3 years

Project Leader: Bradford T. Stull

*To employ the components of applied positive psychology through a connective framework of strengths-based pedagogies engaging faculty, academic advising, career services and student affairs professionals.*



**Sacred Heart University**

Fairfield, CT

Critical Thinking Across the Curriculum (CTAC)

\$203,098 over 2 years

Project Leader: Steven J. Michels

*Support to establish a critical thinking program as a component of the University's Core Curriculum.*

**Saint Michael's College**

Colchester, VT

A Faculty Development Program for the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan

\$158,000 over 2 years

Project Leader: Jack Neuhauser

*Support for faculty as they deliver a new Liberal Studies curriculum and a new advising and mentoring program.*

**Thomas College**

Waterville, ME

Open Educational Resources Course Redesign

\$141,835 over 3 years

Project Leader: Laurie Lachance

*Support for course redesign to incorporate open source educational materials in lieu of traditional textbooks.*

**Tufts University**

Medford, MA

Supporting Engagement in Authentic Science at the Introductory Level

\$175,677 over 2 years

Project Leader: Anthony Monaco

*To develop a curricular and pedagogical model supporting authentic engagement in science for undergraduates at the introductory level.*

**Unity College**

Unity, ME

Unity Unbound

\$291,000 over 3 years

Project Leader: Melik Peter Khoury

*To design, pilot and implement a year-round campus model.*

**University of Maine at Machias**

Machias, ME

Successful College Persistence in Rural Downeast Maine

\$201,912 over 2 years

Project Leader: Susan J. Hunter

*Support for expansion of the Supplemental Instruction Program to all non-STEM courses.*

**University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**

Dartmouth, MA

Presidential Grant

\$10,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: James Sheehan

*To implement an incentive-based budget model.*

**University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**

Dartmouth, MA

Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) Process

\$166,000 over 18 months

Project Leader: Mary Louis Nunes

*To implement an RCM process to provide incentives for management of allocated costs and to maximize revenue for all units throughout the campus.*

**University of New Haven**

West Haven, CT

Development of the "Cyber World" Common Course

\$103,125 over 2 years

Project Leader: Ronald Harichandran

*To incorporate a series of learning modules in the first-year experience course to support the development of critical thinking skills while teaching students how to live and learn safely and intelligently in the online environment.*

**Wesleyan University**

Middletown, CT

Oral Communication Competency Development in the Undergraduate Curriculum

\$50,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: Michael Roth

*Support for a six-college collaboration to discover best practices in the teaching of oral communication skills to undergraduate students.*

**Worcester Polytechnic Institute**

Worcester, MA

SWEET: Supporting WPI through Effective and Equitable Teamwork in the Project-Based Curriculum

\$240,000 over 3 years

Project Leader: Lynn Lancaster

*To facilitate student, faculty, and staff understanding of teamwork and team advisement in ways that value and utilize contribution of all team members.*

## **Davis Educational Foundation**

### **Trustees**

William S. Reed, Chair  
M. Therese Antone, RSM  
Richard W. Cost  
Peter K. Davis  
Edward R. MacKay  
Judith B. Wittenberg

### **Staff**

Yvonne B. Mummé, Director of Finance  
Leanne Greeley Bond, Director of Grants and Programs  
Elizabeth Pope, Program Associate  
Lisa Smith, Grants Associate

### **Davis Educational Foundation**

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Additional information can also be found at [www.davisfoundations.org/def](http://www.davisfoundations.org/def)