2023 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, controlling costs, and increasing student affordability. 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 two times each year on February 10 and October 1. When the date falls on a weekend or holiday, submissions must be received by 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 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 Sheet
December 31, 2023

ASSETS

- Investments $118,267,906
- Due from related parties 49,601
- Other assets 9,300

Total assets $118,326,807

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities
- Accrued expenses $62,029
- Grants payable 1,579,916
- Due to related party 44,180

Total liabilities 1,686,125

Net assets
- Without donor restrictions 116,640,682

Total liabilities and net assets $118,326,807
Changes in net assets without donor restrictions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues and other gains</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net return on investments</td>
<td>$17,645,455</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grantmaking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants, net of returns</td>
<td>2,111,305</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant-related expenses</td>
<td>406,253</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total grantmaking expenses</td>
<td>2,517,558</td>
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<tr>
<td>General and administrative</td>
<td>156,180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>2,673,738</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in net assets without donor restrictions</td>
<td>14,971,717</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net assets, beginning of year    | 101,668,965|

Net assets, end of year          | $116,640,682|
Bennington College Corporation
Bennington, VT
A New Framework for the First Year Experience: Pilot and Assessment
$50,000 over 1 year
Project Leader: Allison Gomes

To research and pilot the redesign of the first-year experience to successfully prepare students for the rigors and the interdisciplinary nature of self-directed education.

Brown University
Providence, RI
The Equitable Learning Inquiry Program
$168,494 over 3 years
Project Leader: Eric Kaldor

To implement and scale a highly structured scholarship of teaching and learning program. Faculty collect evidence from their courses on the effectiveness of teaching strategies to promote equitable learning outcomes for students from historically underrepresented groups and first-generation college students.

Bryant University
Smithfield, RI
Generative AI Faculty Development
$10,000 over 1 year
Project Leader: Ross Gittell

To help faculty as they address the acceleration of AI and its impact on the classroom and with students. Faculty will explore AI tools to improve cost efficiency in course delivery and in the support of students in achieving learning outcomes.
**Champlain College Inc**
Burlington, VT
Embedding the College Competencies
$281,704 over 3 years
Project Leader: Craig Pepin

To increase faculty understanding, use, shared vocabulary, and student recognition of the College Competencies. The goal is to produce graduates who are proficient in these learning outcomes, who view learning as developmental, and who continue to develop in the Competencies after they graduate.

**Landmark College**
Putney, VT
Writing Across the Curriculum: Building a Strong and Sustainable Program
$89,362 over 3 years
Project Leader: Sara Glenon

To support the next phase of development for Writing Across the Curriculum. The goals are to codify best practices and establish program sustainability that leads to better understanding neurodivergent students’ writing needs and how this may transfer to other student populations.

**Lasell University, on behalf of the Lower Cost Models for Independent Colleges Consortium ("LCMC")**
Newton, MA
Thriving Through Transitions
$25,000 over 1 year
Project Leader: Michelle Niestepski

For research, analysis, and planning for student success.
**Mitchell College**  
New London, CT  
Mitchell Ability Model Planning  
$10,000 over 1 year  
Project Leader: Elizabeth Ann Beaulieu

To develop a plan, with the assistance of a consultant or facilitator, to enhance the Mitchell Ability Model and its assessment processes to support and serve neurodiverse students at Mitchell College.

**Nichols College**  
Dudley, MA  
Assessing Gaps in the Nichols Curriculum: A Discussion with Student Leaders  
$2,000 over 1 year  
Project Leader: Glenn Sulmasy

To convene of a group of student leaders and senior administrators to identify career readiness gaps in the curriculum.

**Salve Regina University**  
Newport, RI  
Plenary Sessions in Preparation for Enrollment Challenges  
$10,000 over 1 year  
Project Leader: Kelli Armstrong

To engage faculty and staff in plenary sessions to inform and prepare them for expected enrollment challenges that lie ahead.

**Southern New Hampshire University**  
Manchester, NH  
The First Gen Academy  
$352,000 over 3 years  
Project Leader: Lynn Zlotkowski

To prepare our faculty to better close learning gaps and reduce barriers for first-generation low-income learners.
Tufts University
Medford, MA
Human Touch: Developing a More Resilient Educational Paradigm in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Rapid Change
$23,700 over 1 year
Project Leader: Annie Soisson

To create and facilitate an interdisciplinary Faculty Learning Community focused on experimenting with AI for learning, iteration, and communal reflection and feedback as well as an internal symposium.

University of Maine
Orono, ME
Strengthening the Culture of General Education Assessment
$75,998 over 2 years
Project Leader: Debra Allen

To pilot a redesigned assessment process enabling faculty and administration to better understand whether students have the opportunity to achieve learning outcomes fundamental to UMaine's general education program.

University of Massachusetts at Boston
Boston, MA
Improving Writing Instruction Across Disciplines through the University WAC Program
$223,988 over 3 years
Project Leader: Lauren Marshall Bowen

To launch the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) Program, which aims to increase effective, inclusive writing instruction and support university-wide coherence in writing-related programs.
University of Massachusetts Lowell  
Lowell, MA  
The Leading, Engaging and Advising Fellows (LEAF) Program: A Strategy for Improving Student Engagement and Faculty Pedagogy  
$483,324 over 3 years  
Project Leader: Shaima Ragab  

To establish a Leading, Engaging and Advising Fellows (LEAF) program, a collaborative initiative that aims to improve student retention, decrease DFW rates, boost engagement, enhance cultural competence, and empower pedagogy.

University of Rhode Island  
Kingston, RI  
Strategic Review of Administration and Finance Division  
$10,000 over 1 year  
Project Leader: Marc B. Parlange  

To hire a consultant to provide an objective review of the Administrative and Finance division, considering elements such as organizational structure, effectiveness and efficiency, delegation of authority and responsibility, and overall unit culture.

Vermont State University  
Randolph, VT  
Prioritizing Access Through ‘Face-to-Face Plus’ Expansion and OER Adoption  
$216,261 over 1 year  
Project Leader: Jennifer Garrett-Ostermiller  

To expand development and support for Face-to-Face Plus courses and adoption of Open Educational Resources in support of student access and equity regardless of student location and learning modality.
Davis Educational Foundation

Trustees

Edward R. MacKay, Chair
M. Therese Antone, RSM
Dennis D. Berkey
Richard M. Freeland
A. Clayton Spencer
William E. Wheeler
Judith B. Wittenberg

Staff

Yvonne B. Mummé, Chief Finance and Administrative Officer
Leanne Greeley Bond, Director of Grants and Programs
Vrylena Olney, Program Officer
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Additional information can also be found at
www.davisfoundations.org/def