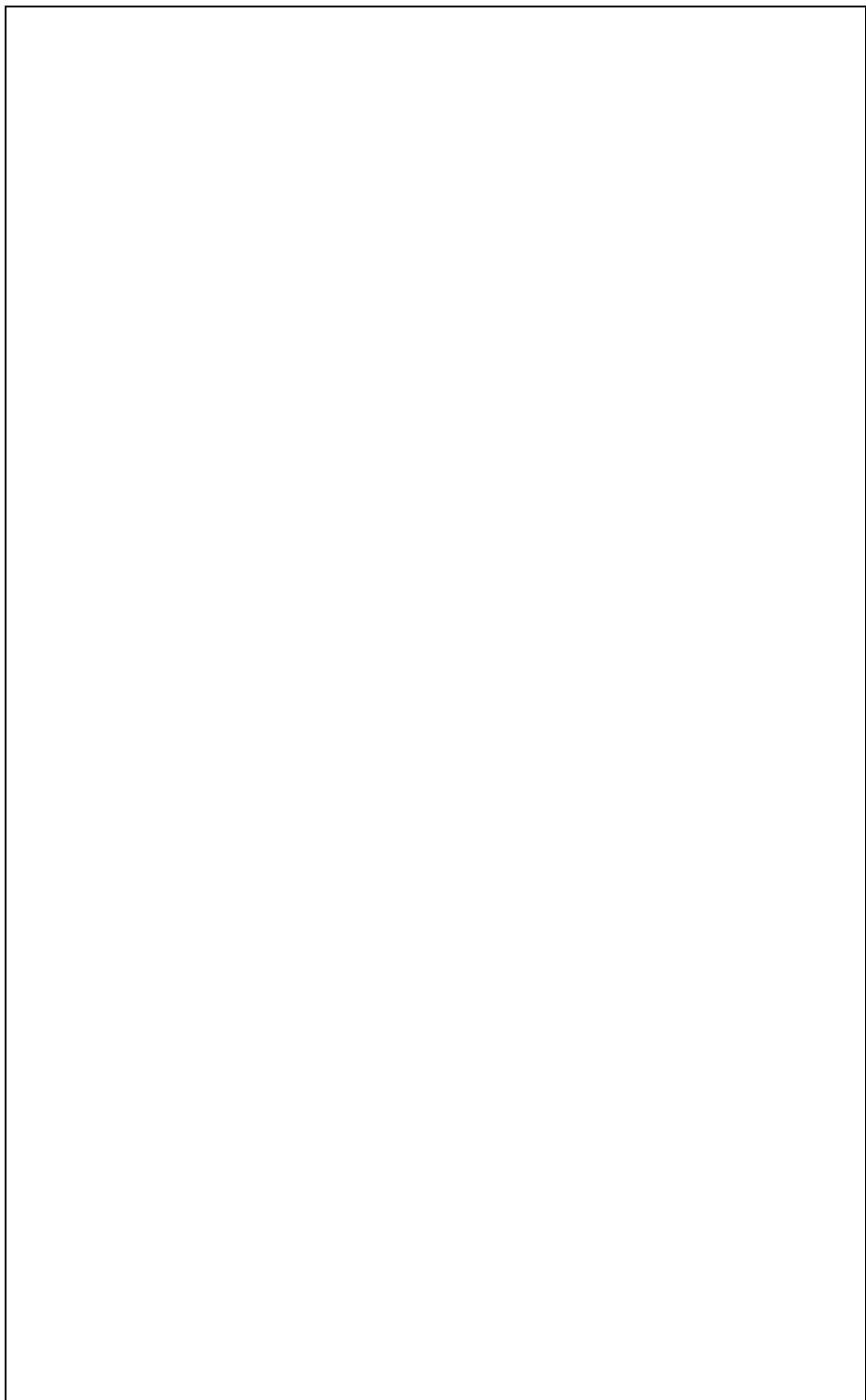




**DAVIS  
EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION**

# **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.

## Objectives

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](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 Sheet  
December 31, 2023

**ASSETS**

Investments	<b>\$ 118,267,906</b>
Due from related parties	<b>49,601</b>
Other assets	<b><u>9,300</u></b>
Total assets	<b><u>\$ 118,326,807</u></b>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

Liabilities	
Accrued expenses	<b>\$ 62,029</b>
Grants payable	<b>1,579,916</b>
Due to related party	<b><u>44,180</u></b>
Total liabilities	<b>1,686,125</b>
Net assets	
Without donor restrictions	<b><u>116,640,682</u></b>
Total liabilities and net assets	<b><u>\$ 118,326,807</u></b>

**DAVIS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**  
Statement of Activities  
Year Ended December 31, 2023

Changes in net assets without donor restrictions	
Revenues and other gains	
Net return on investments	<b>\$ 17,645,455</b>
Expenses	
Grantmaking	
Grants, net of returns	<b>2,111,305</b>
Grant-related expenses	<b><u>406,253</u></b>
Total grantmaking expenses	<b>2,517,558</b>
General and administrative	<b><u>156,180</u></b>
Total expenses	<b><u>2,673,738</u></b>
Change in net assets without donor restrictions	<b>14,971,717</b>
Net assets, beginning of year	<b><u>101,668,965</u></b>
Net assets, end of year	<b><u>\$ 116,640,682</u></b>

**Davis Educational Foundation**  
**Grants Made and Payable**  
**During the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

**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

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M. Therese Antone, RSM  
Dennis D. Berkey  
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Leanne Greeley Bond, Director of Grants and Programs  
Vrylena Olney, Program Officer  
Suzanne S. Muir, Grants Associate

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Additional information can also be found at  
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