



2024 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 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, 2024

ASSETS

Investments	\$ 130,286,341
Due from related parties	51,230
Other assets	<u>6,433</u>
 Total assets	 \$ <u>130,344,004</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities	
Accrued expenses	\$ 69,396
Grants payable	2,363,208
Due to related party	<u>45,955</u>
 Total liabilities	 2,478,559
 Net assets	
Without donor restrictions	<u>127,865,445</u>
 Total liabilities and net assets	 \$ <u>130,344,004</u>

DAVIS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2024

Changes in net assets without donor restrictions	
Revenues and other gains	
Net return on investments	\$ <u>15,154,725</u>
Expenses	
Grantmaking	
Grants, net of returns	3,353,063
Grant-related expenses	<u>419,949</u>
Total grantmaking expenses	3,773,012
General and administrative	<u>156,949</u>
Total expenses	<u>3,929,962</u>
Change in net assets without donor restrictions	11,224,763
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>116,640,682</u>
Net assets, end of year	\$ <u>127,865,445</u>

Davis Educational Foundation
Grants Made and Payable
During the Year Ended December 31, 2024

American International College

Springfield, MA

AIC Roadmap to Success

\$10,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: Eunice Bragg

To conduct a data-driven review of academic and athletic programs, and assess market positioning, resulting in a roadmap to enhance strategic planning efforts and ensure long-term sustainability and growth.

Babson College

Wellesley, MA

Technology Entrepreneurship: Layered Learning Opportunities for Students Across the Curriculum

\$240,000 over 2 years

Project Leader: Wendy Murphy

This initiative will support curriculum tools and pedagogical innovation in courses, concentrations and degrees.

Boston College

Chestnut Hill, MA

Messina Purpose Initiative

\$159,790 over 2 years

Project Leader: Erick Berrelleza

This new Boston College program is uniquely designed to support first-generation, low-income students as they navigate Messina's two-year, residential degree program. The curriculum focuses on cultivating purpose and belonging, leveraging mentor-mentee relationships for students' personal and academic development.

Boston University

Boston, MA

Diversifying Curriculum to Improve Student Learning

\$140,000 over 2 years

Project Leader: Davida Pines

This project offers faculty in all divisions at the University's College of General Studies dedicated time, space, and resources to rethink and revise their courses to include a broad diversity of perspectives and to measure student outcomes as a result of the curricular changes.

Bowdoin College

Brunswick, ME

AI in Teaching Initiative

\$249,300 over 3 years

Project Leader: Dale Syphers

A faculty development initiative on artificial intelligence (AI) and teaching. Offering programs designed to build the knowledge, skills, and capacity of faculty around AI and course instruction, this project aims to enhance student learning through the effective integration of AI in teaching across disciplines.

College of Our Lady of the Elms

Chicopee, MA

SOLE: Strengthening Online Learning and Engagement

\$317,627 over 3 years

Project Leader: Joyce Hampton

To expand the College's capacity to deliver quality affordable online education through (a) strengthening high-quality teaching and learning, (b) providing the infrastructure needed for students to be successful in online learning, and (c) growing online enrollment through the undergraduate transfer pipeline.

College of Our Lady of the Elms

Chicopee, MA

Financial Planning

\$10,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: Harry E. Dumay

To support the hiring of an outside consultant to conduct a thorough review and update of the College's multi-year financial plan and identify areas for improved efficiency and cost savings.

Curry College

Milton, MA

Institutional Strategic Planning

\$10,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: Jay Gonzalez

To support a comprehensive strategic planning process, specifically by facilitating the implementation of an outcomes-driven strategic plan that elevates the focus of cost and affordability among campus leadership.

Eastern Connecticut State University

Willimantic, CT

Empowering Sustainable Pedagogical Innovation: ECSU's Faculty Development Initiative

\$281,120 over 2 years

Project Leader: Courtney Broschius

Funding to launch a new Teaching Scholars Program and create an online course planning tool. Programming includes a sustainable faculty development program, cost-effective solutions to evolving student needs, and scholarship dissemination.

Five Colleges Incorporated

Amherst, MA

Creating a Next Generation Repository for World Language Learning Materials

\$84,700 over 1 year

Project Leader: Janna White

This project supports the critical upgrade of LangMedia, an online, open-access repository of learning resources in almost 50 languages. LangMedia is a vital part of the Five College Center for World Languages' pedagogy.

Gordon College

Wenham, MA

Academic Restructuring

\$2,500 over 1 year

Project Leader: Michael Hammond

To provide professional development and leadership coaching for seven new deans as part of an academic restructuring.

Lasell University

Newton, MA

High-Demand Academic Programs for More than 100 Colleges

\$233,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: Kevin Harrington

This project will develop courses for three cutting-edge programs in AI Literacy, Applied AI & Climate Technology in partnership with Rize Education. Lower Cost Model Consortium schools will be able to instantly and affordably add these programs via a collaborative degree model.

Plymouth State University

Plymouth, NH

Designing Forward: Reimagining Instructional Design for Cluster Learning

\$231,985 over 3 years

Project Leader: Martha Burtis

This project will expand faculty expertise with innovative instructional design strategies. Through a comprehensive professional development program, faculty will imagine and design new architectures for learning reflective of PSU's unique Cluster Learning approach.

Rhode Island School of Design

Providence, RI

Expanding the Impact of RISD's Teaching & Learning Lab

\$290,247 over 2 years

Project Leader: Touba Ghadessi

This project will allow RISD to meet students' diverse and evolving needs and strengthen the learning experience by expanding its Teaching and Learning Lab. The project involves faculty professional development and leadership opportunities focused on inclusive practices while measuring these activities' impact to inform future planning.

Rhode Island School of Design

Providence, RI

Financial Optimization Initiative

\$10,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: Maghan Bolles

To identify areas to restructure and streamline with the overarching goal of reducing costs and redundancies as well as identify and develop business models for new and expanded revenue streams that strengthen RISD's long-term financial sustainability.

Rhode Island School of Design

Providence, RI

Expanding the Impact of RISD's Teaching & Learning Lab

\$25,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: Touba Ghadessi

Planning related to improving pedagogical capacities of faculty through the expansion of the Teaching & Learning Lab with emphasis on fostering inclusive teaching practices and establishing artificial intelligence literacies.

Saint Michael's College

Colchester, VT

Strategic Planning

\$10,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: Richard Plumb

To support a strategic planning initiative focused on the mission and new vision, core curriculum requirements, profitability, and student interest, with improvements to be made around financial stability and operations.

Salem State University

Salem, MA

Curricular Innovations and Interventions to Improve Outcomes for STEM Majors

\$274,374 over 3 years

Project Leader: Tess Killpack

This project focuses on STEM learning environments, student learning outcomes, and STEM major retention through the development of two specific high-impact practices: (1) Faculty Learning Communities for innovation of high-enrollment STEM gateway courses and (2) Common Intellectual Experiences through new course interventions for STEM support and belonging.

Salve Regina University

Newport, RI

Operational Efficiencies with Emmanuel College

\$10,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: Kelli Armstrong

To support faculty and staff as they map potential key components of a strategic alliance with Emmanuel College as well as legal consultation to construct a Memorandum of Understanding. Areas for exploration and planning include academic exchange programs, teaching and research collaborations, and the scope of potential operational efficiencies.

University of Connecticut

Storrs, CT

UASCEND (UConn Advancing Structural Consistency through Educational Networks and Design)

\$297,000 over 3 years

Project Leader: Lauren Schlesselman

This university wide, multi-campus project builds faculty, graduate assistant, and academic program skills to develop student-centric learning-objectives, to align assessment measures to objectives, and to design integrative, authentic, and standardized assessment measures. It will also provide scholarship of teaching and learning opportunities to demonstrate impact.

University of New England

Biddeford, ME

Introducing Open Educational Resources at UNE

\$80,000 over 3 years

Project Leader: Elizabeth Dyer

This initiative will expand open educational resources (OER) across the University, promoting inclusive learning environments and contributing to student success. UNE will accomplish its OER goals through workshops, training opportunities, and faculty collaborations.

University of New Hampshire

Durham, NH

Online Peer Academic Leaders Phase II Program Cluster

\$127,794 over 2 years

Project Leader: Rita Kondrath

This project will refine and expand the Online Peer Academic Leaders (OPAL) program to a cluster of courses within specific disciplines. The goal of the expansion is to increase retention in students' desired program areas.

University of Saint Joseph

West Hartford, CT

Optimized Course Scheduling Process

\$10,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: Rhona Free

To support a review and assessment of the scheduling system and provide advanced training in an upgraded scheduling system with the aim of improving degree progression and on-time graduation rates.

University of Vermont

Burlington, VT

Study CATS: Empowering Learners for Long Term Educational Success

\$322,148 over 2 years

Project Leader: Jennifer Dickinson

This project expands an intensive academic success program supporting first- and second-year students. Study CATS develops effective study habits, organizational skills, and connects students with campus resources as a means to increase student confidence, boost grades, and support degree progression.

Davis Educational Foundation

Trustees

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

Staff

Yvonne B. Mummé, Chief Finance and Administrative Officer
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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