



2025 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 award grants to capital campaigns. The Foundation typically does not award concurrent grants 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, submission must be received by the preceding business day.

The Presidential Grant Program was 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, improve college affordability, and advance institutional sustainability. 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 encouraged to contact Foundation staff to discuss proposal ideas prior to submission.

Balance Sheet December 31, 2025
--

ASSETS

Investments	\$ 153,290,783
Due from related parties	55,486
Other assets	<u>7,253</u>
 Total assets	 <u><u>\$ 153,353,522</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities	
Accrued expenses	\$ 73,811
Grants payable	2,383,305
Due to related parties	<u>58,228</u>
 Total liabilities	 2,515,344
 Net assets	
Without donor restrictions	<u>150,838,178</u>
 Total liabilities and net assets	 <u><u>\$ 153,353,522</u></u>

Statement of Activities Year Ended December 31, 2025
--

Changes in net assets without donor restrictions

Revenues and gains

Contributions	\$ 500,000
---------------	------------

Net return on investments	<u>26,553,827</u>
---------------------------	-------------------

Total revenues and gains	<u>27,053,827</u>
--------------------------	-------------------

Expenses

Grantmaking

Grants, net of returns	3,437,829
------------------------	-----------

Grant related expenses	<u>457,715</u>
------------------------	----------------

Total grantmaking expenses	3,895,544
----------------------------	-----------

General and administrative	<u>185,550</u>
----------------------------	----------------

Total expenses	<u>4,081,094</u>
----------------	------------------

Change in net assets without donor restrictions	22,972,733
---	------------

Net assets, beginning of year	<u>127,865,445</u>
-------------------------------	--------------------

Net assets, end of year	<u><u>\$ 150,838,178</u></u>
-------------------------	------------------------------

**Grants Awarded and Payable
During the Year Ended December 31, 2025**

Bay Path University

Longmeadow, MA

Navigating a Path to Graduation: Streamlining Pathways to Student Success

\$225,000 over 2 years

To optimize pathways, develop degree audits, and unify data systems with a focus on student success following the merger with Cambridge College.

Bentley University

Waltham, MA

Open Educational Resources

\$10,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: LaBrent Chrite

To support faculty review and potential adoption of open, sustainable, and cost-effective alternatives to traditional textbooks.

Bryant University

Smithfield, RI

Leveraging Generative AI to Support Academic Success and Persistence of First Year Students

\$426,623 over 3 years

Project Leader: Terri Hasseler

To integrate adaptive AI into first-year General Education courses to support student success and faculty teaching and launch a Departmental AI Faculty Fellows Program to develop Generative AI learning tools and mentor departmental colleagues in discipline-specific teaching of AI.

Colby-Sawyer College

New London, NH

Institutional Strategic Plan Development

\$10,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: Dean McCurdy

To contribute to consulting fees for the development of a three-year strategic plan, including continued exploration of ways to contain costs and make a Colby-Sawyer education affordable.

Connecticut College

New London, CT

Curricular Equilibrium Project

\$75,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: Danielle Egan

To realign faculty resources by implementing strategic curriculum adjustments and policy reforms to ensure a sustainable, high-quality liberal arts education while positioning the institution for long-term growth and tenure-track hiring.

Five Colleges Incorporated

Amherst, MA

Higher Education Consortium Leadership Retreat

\$10,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: Sarah Pfatteicher

To support a leadership retreat for the presidents, provosts, and principal business officers of the institutions making up the Five Colleges consortium to plan for future collaborative ventures.

Framingham State University

Framingham, MA

The LIAISE project: Leading to Integrate Artificial Intelligence into Student Experiences

\$50,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: Keri Ann Sather-Wagstaff, Ph.D.

To develop a plan for faculty development around applying research-informed strategies to integrate artificial intelligence into teaching and learning contexts to increase students' career readiness and persistence.

Massachusetts College of Art & Design

Boston, MA

The Learning and Teaching Center at MassArt

\$98,500 over 2 years

Project Leader: Brenda Molife

To build on successful programming and develop inclusive critique and innovative pedagogy that will serve as a national model.

Northeastern University

Boston, MA

The Future of Higher Education and Work at Northeastern University:

Personalized Learning for Students and Customized Career Preparation

\$238,076 over 2 years

Project Leader: Connie Yowell

To pilot real-time competency assessment and personalized learning support during co-op placements, integrating academic and workplace learning and enhancing student career readiness.

Norwich University

Northfield, VT

Enhancing a Pilot Curriculum Program in American Sign Language

\$76,161 over 3 years

Project Leader: Debra Aronson

To expand the American Sign Language program to meet rising student demand through immersion, interdisciplinary collaboration, community engagement, and professional outreach.

Quinnipiac University

Hamden, CT

Building Opportunities for Broader Classroom Achievement and

Teaching Success

\$167,578 over 2 years

Project Leader: Sara Rzeszutek

To establish a new model for faculty onboarding focused on pedagogical development, community and belonging, better classroom experiences for students, and improved faculty retention, with a weeklong workshop before the semester and additional trainings across

Sacred Heart University

Fairfield, CT

Bringing Community to the Composition Classroom: Integrating Sustainability and Social Justice into First-Year Writing Seminar

\$198,358 over 2 years

Project Leader: Amie Souza Reilly

To improve students' experiences and learning outcomes in the First-Year Writing Seminar through integration of curriculum development, faculty development, and an open-source digital catalog of materials with a unifying and relatable theme of sustainability and social justice.

Saint Anselm College

Manchester, NH

Financial Modeling

\$10,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: Joseph Favazza

To support a consultant to assist with financial modeling.

Saint Michael's College

Colchester, VT

Integrating Metacognitive Learning Strategies and Thematic Pathways into our Curriculum

\$42,220 over 3 years

Project Leader: Gretchen Galbraith

To scaffold gateway courses, embedded with scientifically proven metacognitive principles that will enable students to thrive academically, with thematic experiential learning opportunities to equip students to enter the workforce ready to navigate the complexities of the

Southern Connecticut State University

New Haven, CT

Beyond the Checklist: Enhancing Soft Skills Development Through Immersive Simulation for Nursing

\$210,791 over 2 years

Project Leader: Kimberley Lacey

To embed evidence-based soft skill training into the undergraduate curriculum using a scaffolded approach, beginning with simulation and expanding into classroom and clinical learning experiences.

University of Hartford

West Hartford, CT

Supporting Inclusive Course Design/Revision in General Education

\$219,305 over 3 years

Project Leader: James Shattuck

To support faculty as they transform the University's long-standing general education program by fostering intentional interdisciplinary learning, participatory arts, and cultural competence. Faculty will use Universal Design for Learning principles and generative artificial intelligence tools to design and redesign courses.

University of Maine at Augusta

Augusta, ME

AI and VR Integration for Enhanced Learning at UMA

\$400,000 over 3 years

Project Leader: Joseph Szakas

To integrate artificial intelligence and virtual reality across undergraduate curricula to build immersive, personalized learning environments supporting critical thinking, adaptability, and 21st-century workforce skills.

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Dartmouth, MA

Career Education for Purpose-Driven Students: A Plan for Curriculum and Professional Development at UMass Dartmouth Focused on Career Development

\$45,250 over 1 year

Project Leader: Shannon Jenkins

To explore best practices and review models in career curriculum, develop career course proposals, and plan for professional development for pedagogical approaches to support career development and success.

University of New Haven

West Haven, CT

PITCH 2.0: Development of Technical Communication Skills in the Age of AI

\$169,387 over 2 years

To integrate AI tools into the College of Engineering's PITCH curriculum and provide faculty training to guide students in improving written and visual communication.

Western New England University

Springfield, MA

Financial Sustainability Task Force

\$10,000 over 1 year

Project Leader: Michael Alexander

To support a task force charged with making recommendations to reduce costs and increase revenues, enabling WNE to maintain or reduce students' net price.

Westfield State University

Westfield, MA

From Innovation to Impact: Scaling General Education Reform to Advance Westfield's Integrative Student Experience

\$445,605 over 2 years

Project Leader: Beverly Army-Williams

To refine the curriculum, expand peer support, and embed assessment as a driver of institutional improvement, advancing student success.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Worcester, MA

Global & Intercultural Competency Across the Curriculum

\$299,975 over 3 years

Project Leader: Lauren Mathews

To research, develop, and assess curriculum that increases global and intercultural competency among the undergraduate students at WPI.

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, Senior Program Officer
Suzanne S. Muir, Grants Specialist

Davis Educational Foundation

30 Forest Falls Drive, Suite 5
Yarmouth, ME 04096
207 846-9132
def@davisfoundations.org

Additional information can also be found at
www.davisfoundations.org/def