



GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION

**Charitable Activities Committee
2014 Annual Report**

Total Grants Approved in 2014

Funding Principle	Number of Grants	Amount of Funding
Post-Secondary Education (preparation, access, completion and persistence)	19	\$3,019,579
Math & Science for Post Secondary Readiness	0	\$0
GTF Educational Matching Grant Program	7	\$41,000
Other/Association Grants	2	\$3,750
Greater Texas Foundation Scholars (<i>Third Year Funding</i>)	3	\$870,000
2014 TOTALS	30	\$3,934,329

NOTE: For comparison, 2013 Totals: 32 grants for a total of \$4,097,559 in funding

Total Grants Paid in 2014

Funding Principle	Amount of Funding
Scholarship Programs for Higher Education ¹	\$46,680
Improving Math & Science Education ¹	\$652,233
Other /Association "Membership" Grants	\$188,750
Post-Secondary Education (preparation, access, completion and persistence) ²	\$2,875,230.35
Math & Science for Post-Secondary Readiness ²	\$482,778.66
2014 TOTAL	\$4,245,672.01

¹ Inactive Funding Principle (used prior to 2010).

² Active Funding Principle (used since 2010).

NOTE: For comparison, 2013 Total: \$3,526,836.12

Total Requests Received & Declined in 2014

Type of Request	Number Received	Number of Declinations	Requested Amount Declined
Immediate Declination LOIs	6	6	\$4,351,500
Concept Papers	2	1	n/a
Letters of Inquiry	8	3	\$1,200,645
Proposals (includes GTF Matching Grants and Chair's Fund)	22	1	\$254,428
GTF Fellows Proposals	11	7	\$566,523
2014 TOTAL	49	18	\$6,373,096

NOTE: For comparison, 2013 Totals: 20 declinations at a requested amount of \$2,104,292.52

Total Active Grants in 2014

In addition to grants approved in 2014, the foundation maintains a portfolio of “active” grants that were approved prior to 2014, but still remain open. GTF staff continues oversight of these grants through reporting, monitoring, active correspondence, etc. The following chart contains an overview of the number and funding amount of the foundation’s Active Grants portfolio as of December 31, 2014.

Type of Grant	Number of Grants	Total Amount of Funding
General Grants³	28	\$11,710,200.24
Chair's Fund	3	\$16,500
Endowments	66	\$7,088,465.14
Indirect Grants⁴	3	\$1,300,000
2014 TOTAL	100	\$20,115,165.38

³ Post-Secondary Education, Math & Science for Post-Secondary Readiness, Opportunity Fund, GTF Educational Matching Grants, Association Memberships, or active grants from prior funding principles.

⁴ Re-grants made by intermediaries that GTF actively monitors.

NOTE: For comparison, 2013 Totals: 115 active grants at a total amount of \$25,882,682.91

GTF Approved Grantmaking since FY2001

Year	Grant Amount	Year	Grant Amount
2001	\$200,000	2008	\$11,256,561
2002	\$160,000	2009	\$4,808,317
2003	\$1,396,800	2010	\$3,795,658
2004	\$864,594	2011	\$6,202,077
2005	\$829,824	2012	\$1,329,623
2006	\$2,158,045	2013	\$4,097,559
2007	\$4,050,780	2014	\$3,934,329
TOTAL			\$45,084,167

Grants Approved in 2014

Post-Secondary Education (Preparation, Access, Completion and Persistence)

Success Partnerships for a Greater Texas (\$500,000)

To support the development of efficient, effective, easily-administered models of College Forward's core programs that motivate low-income and first-generation students to achieve postsecondary success, for use by school districts, postsecondary institutions, and community based organizations across Texas - rural as well as urban. (*College Forward*)

Texas Regional STEM Degree Accelerator (\$200,000)

To support Phase I of the Texas Regional STEM Degree Accelerator project that will empower local institutions of higher education (2 year, 4 year, and technical schools) in Texas to collaborate and design strategies to accelerate the number of students who graduate with STEM postsecondary degrees. Additional funders include: The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, The W.W. Caruth Jr. Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, Meadows Foundation and National Instruments Foundation. (*Communities Foundation of Texas/Educate Texas*)

Chair's Fund: 2014 National Early College High School Conference (\$10,000)

To support the 2014 National Early High School Conference titled "Transforming Education, Changing the Future" to be held in Dallas, Texas December 9th and 10th. Co-hosted by Jobs for the Future and Educate Texas, it is anticipated that over 500 attendees from ECHS, universities and community colleges, Texas legislature, and business and community organizations will be in attendance. The common goal is propelling students to succeed in high school, college and careers. (*Communities Foundation of Texas/Educate Texas*)

Pathways of Promise (POP): Identifying and Scaling Practices for High School and College Success (\$391,754)

Pathways of Promise (POP) is a two-phased research initiative designed to identify and scale course tracks for high school students leading to successful transitions to, and completion of, a postsecondary credential. Phase I of POP focuses on research that will allow for the creation of an inventory of regional high school to college pathways, including CTE, and core course sequencing. Phase II of POP will take the findings from the research, including both the course patterns and characteristics of successful high school pathways, and work with partner districts to implement changes aligning to the research findings and the expectations of House Bill 5. (*E3 Alliance*)

United for College Success II (\$80,000)

This grant supports the second phase of United for College Success which will build on the creation of a coalition of Charter Management Organizations (CMOs) and one Independent School District to collect and share alumni data and develop strategies to increase the college completion rates of their first generation and low-income students that are matriculating to college. (*KIPP, Inc.*)

Chair's Fund: College for All – State Conference (\$5,000)

This conference, hosted by Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD on October 23-25, 2014 will provide a forum for higher education, public schools, funders, legislators and the business community to engage in a dialogue on closing the achievement gap especially among students under-represented in higher education. (*Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District*)

Chair's Fund: 2014 Pathways to Progress Institute (\$10,000)

This grant provides travel assistance funds for small and rural colleges attending The Texas Success Center's 2014 Pathways to Progress Institute which will be held in Dallas, Texas, September 21-23, 2014. (*Texas Community College Education Initiative*)

Chair's Fund: The Changing Face of Texas – The Growing Number of Latinos in Public Education and the Workforce (\$5,000)

Scheduled for August 15, 2014 in the Rio Grande Valley, this meeting will address issues that face Texas educational institutions and, in turn, the Texas economy based on projections that Hispanics will make up a majority of Texas's labor force by the year 2040. (*Texas Lyceum Association, Inc.*)

Opportunity Youth Incentive Fund – 2 (\$325,000)

Supporting the Austin Opportunity Youth Collaborative led by the Workforce Solutions Capital Area, the goals of the OYIF-2 include the following four areas that build on post-secondary access, retention and completion: 1) eliminate barriers that Opportunity Youth (OY) experience in connecting to education, career-based jobs, and service to the

community; 2) increase the number of OY graduating high school with industry credentials or achieving their GED; 3) increase the number of OY completing foundation, market-valued postsecondary credentials; and 4) increase the number of OY connecting to targeted industries and achieving meaningful employment. (*The Aspen Institute, Inc.*)

Chair's Fund: Multiple Pathways to Graduation Work Group (\$1,500)

This grant supports The Youth Transition Funders Group's Multiple Pathways to Graduation Work Group to (1) expand education options for vulnerable and opportunity youth to be prepared for postsecondary success and employment, and (2) achieve better alignment of and collaboration between systems. (*The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region*)

Dr. Wesley Summers Sul Ross Scholarship (\$26,200)

To honor former board Greater Texas Foundation board members, this scholarship has been established to provide need based scholarships to the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University on behalf of Dr. Wesley Summers. (*Texas A&M Foundation*)

Removing Educational Barriers Endowed Scholarship (\$65,000)

In 2003, the foundation created the Removing Educational Barriers scholarship program with grants of \$20,000 to all public four-year post-secondary institutions of higher education in the state of Texas. In subsequent years, the foundation provided additional funds on a matching basis. In 2007, the foundation announced its goal to establish \$200,000 endowments (on a net matching basis) at all public four-year post-secondary institutions of higher education in the state. This grant supports need-based scholarships at Texas A&M University – Central Texas which received accreditation in 2013. (*Texas A&M University – Central Texas*)

Engaging Latino Students for Transfer and College Completion

(\$75,000)

This additional grant funding to the original grant amount of \$187,000 provides support for the development of student focus group videos that will enhance the work already done to help institutions strengthen Latino student engagement, collaboration around the transfer process, and college completion. Additional support is being provided by the Kresge Foundation. (*The University of Texas at Austin/Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCCSE)*)

Board Training for Student Success in Texas (\$551,243)

To support the planning and implementation of a Board of Trustees Institute that will engage the leaders of 26 Texas colleges over three years (2015-2017) in activities designed to promote student access, success, and equity (closing achievement gaps) in Texas community colleges. Additional funding is being provided by Houston Endowment. (*The University of Texas at Austin/Student Success Initiatives (SSI)*)

Improving Post-Secondary Education Access and Success in Rural Texas (\$500,000)

This grant supports a three-year project that aims to significantly increase access to affordable teacher and school administrator preparation, post-secondary nursing enrollment, and the number of business and IT professionals in rural communities in Texas through online, competency-based degree programs that address key workforce needs. (*WGU Texas*)

GTF Fellows Program Initiative. The purpose of GTF Fellows is to build research and teaching capacity for Texas faculty working in areas related to the foundation's mission and strategy. The following four research grants were awarded in 2014:

- **Academic Identity and It's Role in Predicting Postsecondary Achievement** (\$90,000)

Guided by work on the academic success of underrepresented groups that points to the important role of students' identities on their educational experience, this project considers how Mexican-origin middle school students identify with their academics (i.e. academic identity), such as with certain coursework, including STEM-related (i.e. science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and English-related (i.e., verbal ability) courses at a period when identity formation begins (i.e., adolescence). (*Texas State University*)

- **Beginning with the Beginning: Teacher Education and College Career Readiness for all Students** (\$39,400)

This research is focused on rethinking the English Education teacher preparation sequence (a methods course followed by student teaching) at the University of Texas at Arlington. Specifically the researcher is examining a purposeful restructuring of the content and curriculum of the methods course and the implementation of this content and curriculum during the student teaching semester. The goal is to create a two-semester sequence that foregrounds college readiness, with the intent of producing better prepared future teachers. (*The University of Texas at Arlington*)

- **Investigating the Effects of Algebra and Rational Numbers Performance on Post-Secondary Preparation, Access, and Persistence for Students With and Without Mathematics Difficulty** (\$62,820)

This research study will demonstrate the impact, if any, of algebra and rational numbers performance on post-secondary preparation, access, and persistence for students from diverse backgrounds, in order to impact the ways teachers teach algebra and rational numbers to students across grade levels. (*The University of Texas at Austin*)

- **The Effects of Targeted Recruitment Programs Implemented by Texas's Flagship Universities** (\$81,162)

This project will provide causal evidence of the long run effects of two longstanding recruitment programs, the Longhorn Opportunity Scholarship and Century Scholars Program, implemented by the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University-College Station, respectively, that target high schools with student bodies with a high percentage of students of low socioeconomic status. The Longhorn Opportunity Scholarship and the Century Scholars Program inform students from the targeted schools that Texas's flagship institutions are a viable option and provide both financial and academic supports to mitigate the deficits that accrue from a hardscrabble background. Using quasi-experimental methods, this project will provide evidence on the potential of targeted recruitment programs to enhance the opportunity set available to low-income high-ability students. (*The University of Texas at Dallas*)

GTF Scholars – Third Year Funding

In 2014 the board approved additional funding in the amount of \$870,000 for the GTF Scholars Program to support a third year of support for GTF scholars. The following universities accepted the third year funding. The University of North Texas declined the additional funding but committed to tracking student data throughout their third year.

- Texas A&M University (\$340,000)
- The University of Texas at Brownsville (\$265,000)
- University of Houston (\$265,000)

GTF Educational Matching Grant Program

GTF Educational Matching Grant Program 2014 (\$41,000)

This program is meant to encourage giving by Greater Texas Foundation officers, board members, committee members, and employees to educational institutions or organizations supporting education. The foundation will match contributions up to \$5,000 on a 2:1 basis. (*Austin College, Baylor University, Texas A&M Foundation (2), Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, and Tyler Junior College*)

Other

Association/Membership Fees (\$3,750)

(*Grantmakers for Education, Grants Managers Network, Inc.*)

Additional 2014 Initiatives

Strategic Planning Update

In 2009, Greater Texas Foundation underwent a six-month strategic planning process in partnership with FSG, in which the foundation examined current and projected educational needs in Texas and how the foundation's efforts might be best aligned to address those needs. This strategy led to the adoption of the foundation's focus on postsecondary preparation, access, persistence, and completion in the state of Texas. Since then, through administering grants, creating relationships, and convening stakeholders, the foundation has deepened its understanding of the postsecondary landscape in Texas and sharpened its ability to create positive change.

In 2014, after five years of executing this strategy, the foundation again partnered with FSG to undertake a strategic review of its work. Throughout this process the foundation maintained its focus on postsecondary preparation, access, persistence, and success in Texas – but also explored how it might increase its positive impact in a quickly-changing postsecondary landscape.

GTF's resulting strategy includes the following key tenets:

1. Support for *regional*-level work so that regions across Texas can better collaborate, share information, and align systems that support the success of all students.
2. A focus on specific *issues* that provide leverage points for improving postsecondary outcomes across Texas (e.g. high school to postsecondary transitions, rigor and alignment in math, transfer pathways, and improving the success of rural students).
3. The use of multiple *roles* to achieve greater impact, including roles related to grantmaking, research, convening, and policy advocacy.

By focusing in these three areas as part of GTF's new strategy, the foundation can be more strategic, flexible, and ultimately effective in advancing the cause of postsecondary education in the state of Texas.

GTF Faculty Fellows: Washington, D.C. Trip

In October 2014, the foundation, in consultation with Dr. Don Thompson, coordinated a trip to Washington, D.C. for the first two cohorts of GTF Faculty Fellows. The networking trip was intended to help the fellows meet with organizations, agencies, and representatives with aligned missions around student success. Further, the trip was intended to demonstrate to the fellows how they may potentially connect their work to policy. The fellows visited with representatives from National Association of Financial Aid Administrators, American Association of Community Colleges, American Council on Education, National Association of Latino Elected Officials, Excelencia in Education, and the Department of Education. Representatives from those and other organizations also attended a reception for the fellows during their visit. The fellows concluded their agenda with visits to the offices of Congressman Bill Flores, Congressman Ruben Hinojosa, and Senator Ted Cruz. The trip was, overall, very well received by the fellows, and they have had varying levels of follow from the trip. In addition, there are opportunities for the foundation to continue to work with organizations visited, including ACE and NALEO.

GTF Scholars Graduates

The foundation had its first graduates under the GTF Scholars program in 2014. Six students from The University of Texas at Brownsville and one student from University of Houston graduated “on time” in May 2014 after two years at their respective four-year institutions. There were an additional two graduates from Texas A&M in August 2014. Although the number of graduates across the program was low, the characteristics of the graduates reinforced some of the lessons the foundation is learning based on the scholarship program, including the importance of taking transferrable (applicable to degree) credit hours at the early college high school and staying on course with chosen majors. Of the seven “on time” graduates, we know that at least five are attending graduate school. Feedback from graduates through a post-graduation evaluation survey included the following:

- *“It was an honor and a privilege, when I am asked about my college experience I proudly tell them I was a GTF scholar.”*
- *“It meant the world. It meant I was given the opportunity to achieve my dream of having a college education.”*
- *“I felt very proud to be a scholar. For me, it meant that I had more of a reason to succeed as a college student.”*
- *“To me it just meant that I was very privileged. I felt like I lucked into this. When I picked an Early College High School I had no idea of the longer term benefits.”*