



GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION

**Charitable Activities Committee
2016 Annual Report**

Total Grants Approved in 2016

Funding Principle	Number of Grants	Amount of Funding
Post-Secondary Education (preparation, access, completion and persistence)	30	\$5,648,475.25
GTF Educational Matching Grant Program	3	\$30,000
Other/Association Grants	3	\$4,650
2016 TOTALS	36	\$5,683,125.25

NOTE: For comparison, 2015 Totals: 34 grants for a total of \$4,190,480.87 in funding.

Total Grants Paid in 2016

Funding Principle	Amount of Funding
Scholarship Programs for Higher Education ¹	\$14,400
Improving Math & Science Education ¹	(\$240,691.86)
Other (Association "Membership" Grants)	\$4,650
Post-Secondary Education (preparation, access, completion and persistence) ²	\$4,938,648.34
Math & Science for Post-Secondary Readiness	\$185,606.73
2016 TOTAL	\$4,902,613.21

¹ Inactive Funding Principle (used prior to 2010).

² Active Funding Principle (used since 2010).

NOTE: For comparison, 2015 Total: \$4,731,535.

Total Requests Received & Declined in 2016

Type of Request	Number Received	Number Pending	Number of Declinations	Requested Amount Declined
Immediate Declination LOIs	6	0	6	\$411,500
Concept Papers	8	1	1	\$110,291
Letters of Inquiry	13	2	11	\$1,475,790
Proposals (includes GTF Matching Grants and Chair's Fund)	37	4	0	\$0
GTF Fellows Proposals	11	0	7	\$684,297
2016 TOTAL	75	7	25	\$2,681,878

NOTE: For comparison, 2015 Totals: 19 declinations at a requested amount of \$2,466,192.

Total Active Grants in 2016

In addition to grants approved in 2016, the foundation maintains a portfolio of “active” grants that were approved prior to 2016, 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, 2016.

Type of Grant	Number of Grants	Total Amount of Funding
General Grants³	35	\$13,443,611.12
Chair's Fund	2	\$10,000
Endowments	66	\$5,899,420
Indirect Grants⁴	1	\$800,000
2016 TOTAL	104	\$20,153,031.12

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, 2015 Totals: 94 active grants at a total amount of \$20,004,412.87.

GTF Approved Grantmaking since FY2001

Year	Grant Amount	Year	Grant Amount
2001	\$200,000	2009	\$4,808,317
2002	\$160,000	2010	\$3,795,658
2003	\$1,396,800	2011	\$6,202,077
2004	\$864,594	2012	\$1,329,623
2005	\$829,824	2013	\$4,097,559
2006	\$2,158,045	2014	\$3,934,329
2007	\$4,050,780	2015	\$4,190,480
2008	\$11,256,561	2016	\$5,683,125
TOTAL: \$54,957,772			

Grants Approved in 2016

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

Catch the Next: Dream Catchers-Puente Program (\$542,750)

To support the Puente model in Texas which combines accelerated instruction in reading and writing; counseling and a course in student success techniques; and one-on-one mentoring by community role models. *(Cath the Next, Inc.)*

Dual Credit in Texas, A Research Proposal (\$275,000)

To support an in-depth, empirically grounded understanding of the effectiveness of currently delivered dual credit programs in Texas. *(College for All Texans)*

Texas Affordable Baccalaureates (TAB) Expansion (\$183,600)

To support a Texas institution of higher education offering Texas Affordable Baccalaureates. *(College for All Texans)*

El Paso Collective Impact Initiative (\$500,000)

To support the El Paso Collective Impact Initiative, a foundational strategy for aligning the community, utilizing data to inform strategies, and accelerating efforts to increase student success. *(Communities Foundation of Texas, Inc./Educate Texas)*

Pathways of Promise 2.0 (PoP2): Scaling Promising Practices and Building Systems for High School and College Success (\$583,992)

To support Pathways of Promise 2.0 (PoP2) which will build a systematic approach for scaling "best strategies and interventions" to support broader and more equitable educational pathways leading to postsecondary credentials and meaningful careers. *(E3 Alliance)*

EduGuide Texas Persistence Network: Increasing College Persistence in the Rio Grande Valley (\$390,000)

To support a program that will equip partners in the RGV Focus collective impact network to build student grit and other non-cognitive skills which research shows critically impact persistence. (*EduGuide*)

Chairs' Fund: Latino Student Success (LSS) Funders Group (\$5,000)

To support Excelencia in Education's consulting services for the Latino Student Success Funders Group. (*Excelencia in Education, Inc.*)

Practice to Policy for Latino Student Success in Higher Education: Looking at Transfers (\$285,990)

To support a project that will address the Latino transfer experience with an accelerated timeline to produce a set of informational tools, strategic engagements and policy recommendations to address Latino student success in Texas in preparation for the 85th legislative session. (*Excelencia in Education, Inc.*)

Chairs' Fund: Champions for Change Sponsorship (\$2,500)

To support the Champions for Change workshop in San Antonio, Texas. (*FSG, Inc.*)

Ready Texas: A Study of the Implementation of HB5 in Texas (\$318,000)

To support a mixed-method study of the implementation of HB5 to examine: 1. Statewide, what district characteristics are associated with indicators of postsecondary success before and after the implementation of HB5? and 2. How are educators, families, and students in different districts navigating the changes? What does this mean for postsecondary preparation? (*Intercultural Development Research Association*)

GTF Faculty Fellows - Cohort 1 Mentor Scholarships (\$2,500)

To support a need-based scholarship at Iowa State University. (*Iowa State University*)

United For College Success Phase III (\$271,500)

To support Phase III of United for College Success which plans to drastically increase the ability of all coalition members' students to succeed by strengthening partnerships and programs at member districts and focus colleges. (*KIPP, Inc.*)

Chairs' Fund: Student Scholarship (\$1,000)

To provide need based scholarship support. (*Sam Houston State University*)

The Texas Education Consortium for Male Students of Color: Creating Institutional Capacity Building Tools and Activities (\$488,494)

To support the dissemination of institutional capacity-building tools and activities (CBTA) derived directly from a three-year investigation of the best practices at Consortium institutions to create stronger pathways to and through college for male students of color. *(Texas A&M University)*

Texas Pathways: Planning and Capacity Building (\$249,032)

To support the Texas Pathways Project which targets transforming educational systems across three sectors, starting with the community colleges as leads with partners from public schools and 4-year institutions. *(Texas Community College Education Initiative)*

TEA Strategic Planning Support (\$100,000)

To support the development of an agency-wide operational plan that will inform Commissioner Morath's strategic approach and serve as the foundation of a transformative effort to improve agency alignment, focus, and performance in service of improving academic outcomes for over five million students state-wide. *(Texas Education Agency)*

Sealing the Pipeline Leak: The Impact of Developmental Integrated Reading & Writing (IRW) Instruction on Education Outcomes for Students Enrolled in Texas Community Colleges (\$156,790.92)

To support research that will investigate the efficacy of new Integrated Reading & Writing (IRW) courses and identify evidence-based practices community colleges can implement to positively impact student success in the postsecondary education pipeline. *(Texas State University)*

Data Analysis and Presentation (\$200,000)

To support the renewal of data analysis and presentation of a critical education-related project, the Higher Ed Outcomes Explorer and ensure that all of the Texas Tribune's education explorers and databases are continually updated and refreshed. *(Texas Tribune, Inc.)*

Annual Texas Higher Education Symposium (\$51,488.33)

To support an annual symposium to convene multiple stakeholders invested in solving higher education inequity issues. *(The University of Texas at Austin)*

GTF Faculty Fellows - Cohort 1 Mentor Scholarships (\$2,500)

To support a need-based scholarship at The University of Texas at Austin. *(The University of Texas at Austin)*

Starting Right: Validation of Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE) (\$150,000)

To support research that will document the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE) validity, add to the field's understanding of student

engagement, and help to identify issues that require further attention, whether in research or in institutional practice. *(The University of Texas at Austin)*

Texas Small and Rural Colleges Working Together (\$133,332)

To support a project that will advance 15 small, rural colleges' institutional capacity to collect, analyze, and effectively use a variety of data depicting student progress; use data to target and monitor improvements in postsecondary preparation, access, persistence, and completion; and build an increasingly powerful culture of evidence. *(The University of Texas at Austin)*

Greater Texas Foundation Accelerated ECHS Student Scholarship

(\$390,000)

Support for Region XIX accelerated ECHS students to Baccalaureate completion and graduate school. *(The University of Texas at El Paso)*

GTF Faculty Fellows - Cohort 1 Mentor Scholarships (\$2,500)

To support need-based scholarships in the College of Education at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. *(The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley)*

Transitioning ECHS Graduates to Higher Education (\$15,410)

To support a Rio Grande Convening that will focus on bring together a regional team to (1) share best practices and lessons learned in transitioning ECHS graduates to four-year institutions; (2) explore emerging issues including increasing alignment of pre-college credits completed with post-secondary degree plans; and (3) improving student persistence to degree completion. *(The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley)*

GTF Scholars: Solidifying Regional Partnerships for ECHS Success (\$9,000)

Focused on ensuring success for all early college graduates, the purpose of this regional convening is three-fold: 1) share lessons learned from the GTF Scholars evaluation and program with GTF Scholars institution's regional partners; 2) bring together regional teams (led by GTF Scholars institutions) to identify key challenges early college graduates in the region experience during the transition to the four-year institution, with a focus on the number of credits that apply to a degree; and 3) create an action plan to address identified challenges and for ongoing dialogue and coordination among regional partners. *(The University of North Texas)*

GTF Faculty Fellows Program Initiative. The Purpose of GTF Faculty 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 2016:

- **Project DREAM** (\$89,733)
 To support research - Project DREAM - which focuses on supporting teachers working with students from diverse backgrounds (non-native English speakers, students from low socio-economic backgrounds, students with math difficulty or disability) in rural east Texas. *(Texas A&M University – Commerce)*
- **Transfer Pathways to Baccalaureate Degree Attainment in STEM Fields of Study: A Longitudinal Transcript Analysis in a Texas Research University** (\$68,363)
 To support research that will investigate the extent to which students' transfer pathways, early academic momentum, and course-taking patterns affect students' baccalaureate degree attainment, especially in STEM fields of study. *(The University of Texas at Arlington)*
- **Greasing the Hinges, Reducing the Friction: A Psychological Approach to Opening Gateways to Post-Secondary Success in Texas** (\$90,000)
 To support a study that will develop an integrative model of the psychological threats and experiences that could affect individuals as they transition to college. These include: (1) pre-matriculation lay theories about belonging and potential; (2) experiences of bureaucratic hassles during enrollment; (3) faculty interactions that heighten worries about belonging and potential; and (4) placement on probation or in remediation. *(The University of Texas at Austin)*
- **Implications of Texas Transfer Policies for Community College Transfer Success** (\$90,000)
 To support a study that will examine the extent to which current transfer policies in Texas higher education provide the stepping-stone to a bachelor's degree. *(The University of Texas at Austin)*

GTF Educational Matching Grant Program

GTF Educational Matching Grant Program 2015 (\$30,000)

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

Other

Association/Membership Fees (\$4,650)

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

Additional 2016 Initiatives

GTF Faculty Fellows – Fourth Cohort and Evaluation

In 2016, the foundation welcomed its fourth cohort of fellows to bring the program to a total of 16 fellows total from nine (9) public institutions of higher education in the state. The selection process for the fifth cohort began in October and will conclude with a recommendation to the board in March 2017. Finally, with board approval, staff initiated a process to select an evaluator for the GTF Fellows program in 2015. Based on a proposal and interview process, a recommendation to hire Institute for International Education was approved by the board in 2016. The evaluators conducted two surveys and focus groups in 2016. They have delivered preliminary findings to staff and should be prepared to share more detailed findings in 2017.

GTF Scholars 2.0 and Regional Convenings

Through a combination of financial and non-financial supports, the purpose of GTF Scholars is to increase the number of Texas ECHS graduates who successfully transition to a four-year institution of higher education and complete a baccalaureate degree. The ECHS scholarship highly aligns with the foundation's strategy to support underserved students through completion of a postsecondary credential. The program focuses on a historically underserved population with a high likelihood of academic success given their academic preparation. The program includes non-financial as well financial support components to ensure student success, such academic and social engagement activities and financial guidance. In addition, it includes several design components key to ensuring student success, such as providing simple, transparent and predictable awards; simple monitoring; avoids displacement of funding; and minimizes the need for students to assume student loan debt.

The original program supported five cohorts of students at select institutions in the state. Current institutions are Texas A&M University, University of Houston, University of North Texas, and The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Fall 2016 marked the start of the final cohort under the current program.

Based on positive outcomes and learning from the current program, in 2016 the board approved 1) continuation of the scholarship program with some modifications (e.g. increased administrative support to carry out non-financial components, stronger plans for building ECHS relationships and outreach, and minimal amount of loan support acceptable in financial aid packaging) based on learning from the original program and 2) an increase in the number of institutions participating.

Based on the board approval, a RFP was released in fall 2016 and final recommendations will be made regarding future funding at the January (for continuing institutions) and February (for new institutions) meetings of the board of directors. Recommendations are based on reviews by a committee comprised of directors, staff, and one external member from Educate Texas.

Finally, to continue to enhance regional relationships between GTF Scholars

institutions and their area ECHSs, University of North Texas and The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley both hosted regional convenings to address findings from the GTF Scholars evaluation with their feeder ECHSs. (The convenings were developed in response to a RFP released by GTF to current GTF Scholars institutions.) Both convenings were well attended and set the stage for future dialogue. In particular, the UNT convening was held in conjunction with the North Texas Consortium for Early College High Schools. UNT has been invited back to continue to lead discussions around transition issues with consortium members.

GTF Metrics

In 2014, Greater Texas Foundation engaged in a strategic planning process with FSG. At the conclusion of this process, FSG provided GTF with a set of metrics related to four issue areas the foundation identified as key to improving postsecondary success in the state. The foundation envisioned an annual publication related to these issues areas that inform the foundation's philanthropic work and also a broader audience on the state's progress.

Because metrics provided by FSG were intentionally broad to allow further development, GTF staff engaged in multiple conversations with partners and stakeholders to help provide insight and nuance to these areas. An additional issue area, workforce placement, was added to the initial four.

At its December 2015 meeting, the board approved the release of a RFP to contract a firm, organization, or individual to write a comprehensive report identifying the right set of metrics and work with our communications firm, SoloShoe, to create a consumer-friendly and visually engaging publication that can be updated annually. The final product would help the foundation measure progress in its key issue areas as well as support strategic roles such as communicator, policy advisor, and convener.

The resulting RFP was released to a broad range of organizations and individuals who had previous experience with this type of work. The foundation received eight (8) proposals in response to the RFP, and the committee recommended three (3) organizations to move to the interview phase.

Based on the proposal review, subsequent interviews, and review of additional items requested, in 2016 the board of directors accepted and approved the review committee's recommendation to hire Gibson Consulting Group for the GTF Metrics project. Gibson has provided routine updates to staff as they extract the data required for the work. Examples of data and products will be available in early 2017.