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FRED L. EMERSON FOUNDATION

## **Grant Guidelines Higher Education**

### **Background**

When Fred L. Emerson was president of Dunn & McCarthy in the early 1900's, he personally helped pay college tuition for numerous employees and their children. He believed through education, young people can truly change the world.

Some years later, in the 1950's, the foundation he established began providing direct support to institutions of higher education throughout Upstate New York. Over the decades, higher education has become one of the Fred L. Emerson Foundation's largest categories of giving. In total, the Foundation has awarded more than 50 percent of its philanthropic support to colleges and universities.

Most of the higher education grantees are located in close proximity to Auburn, in Central and Western New York. This has allowed the Foundation to cultivate close relationships with college leaders and establish meaningful, long-term partnerships. The geographic focus has enabled the Foundation's support to help fuel the local economies of dozens of communities that host these institutions throughout the region.

### **Priorities**

The Emerson Foundation offers the following guidance to colleges and universities seeking our support:

- We take interest in a broad range of higher education initiatives including capital campaigns, scholarship endowment, expansion of learning opportunities and internship programs for students, to name a few.
- We seek to be involved with projects that are of the highest priority to the institution and where the Foundation's support has the potential to make a critical and significant difference.
- The Foundation has a long tradition of structuring challenge grants to help institutions meet larger fundraising goals. We continue to welcome opportunities where the Foundation's support can be used to motivate support from other donors.
- We are particularly interested in innovative initiatives that address an identified need and which have the potential to contribute toward the sustainability of the institution.



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- Colleges that have not previously received funding from the Emerson Foundation are encouraged to contact the Foundation to discuss your interests prior to submitting a proposal.
- While the Foundation has traditionally provided support to private institutions, we remain open to proposals from community colleges especially when noteworthy impact on Cayuga County and the surrounding Finger Lakes region can be demonstrated.
- Some grants awarded by the Foundation may be subject to a matching requirement (e.g. challenge grants). In such instances, the Foundation will require grantees to provide detailed evidence of all contributions used to meet the conditions of the grant including evidence that a donor's intent is to meet the Foundation's matching requirements.
- In addition to higher education, the Emerson Foundation remains actively engaged supporting non-profit organizations in Auburn, New York and the surrounding Finger Lakes region. We encourage colleges and universities that may otherwise be seeking to engage in creative scholarship work with community-based issues and organizations to consider exploring such opportunities with non-profit organizations in Auburn and the surrounding communities. If interested in exploring such an opportunity, please feel free to contact the Foundation for guidance.

### **To Submit a Proposal for Our Consideration**

- ✓ Proposal submission deadlines are 3:00p on March 1 and September 1 (or preceding business day when the date falls on a weekend or holiday).
- ✓ Proposals must include a statement or letter of support from the college or university president.
- ✓ All proposals submitted for consideration must be completed through the Foundation's Online Application portal.