

EXPLORATORY & SPECIAL PROJECTS



■ Dianne Boardley Suber talks with students on Saint Augustine's College campus.

"I remember being impressed with Southern Education Foundation and thinking how much I would like to work for an organization that put emphasis on helping children who, for whatever reasons, had been disenfranchised from mainstream America."

– DIANNE BOARDLEY SUBER



Center offers services to strengthen black colleges

Dianne Boardley Suber had her work cut out for her when she arrived as the first female president of Saint Augustine's College, a historically black institution in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1999.

Enrollment was dwindling, aging buildings were in need of repair, and reaffirmation of the college's accreditation was placed on hold by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

"I took over at a time when HBCUs [historically black colleges and universities] were moving from a service orientation to becoming more accountable, competitive and visible institutions," she said.

"It was a time when Saint Augustine's needed to change, and change quickly, if it was to survive."

Under Suber's direction, the campus has met its accreditation requirements, become fiscally stable and solvent, grown its enrollment, and heightened the academic profile of its incoming freshmen.

Suber credits a faculty and staff willing to embrace change along with some well-timed assistance from the Southern Education Foundation (SEF) as fundamental to the campus turnaround.

"I was struggling," Suber said. "Leroy Davis from SEF telephoned me and offered some support, and I took it."

SEF, like Saint Augustine's, was founded in 1867. It is the South's only regional nonprofit focused exclusively on improving education for low-income students and communities, from their preschool through post-secondary education.

SEF, headquartered in Atlanta, consolidated its services to HBCUs by establishing the Center to Serve Historically Black Colleges and Universities in 2003, with the support of two grants totaling \$1.5 million from the Mott Foundation. In 2007, the Foundation made operating and endowment grants totaling \$3 million to support the center. Mott's first grant to support HBCUs was made in 1959.

Suber was familiar with SEF, having seen a presentation of its work while working as an elementary school principal in Newport News, Virginia.

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SEF provided to Saint Augustine's several small grants that helped expand staff and faculty development opportunities.

"They also provided direct advice and support as we worked through our accreditation challenges," Suber said.

SEF addresses issues, including institutional effectiveness and governance, that are critical to not only HBCUs, but also other small colleges.

"They are one of the few organizations willing to say out loud that governance structures need to be addressed during times of change," Suber said.

Several of Saint Augustine's faculty members serve on SEF committees, which has been helpful in terms of continued learning.

"We've been able to retain the relationship and through it, exchange best practices with other colleges and universities," Suber said.

One of those best practices is taking place right on Saint Augustine's campus, Suber said, referring to the college's high rate of male enrollment. During the past six years, the campus has maintained a male enrollment of no less than 51 percent. According to 2006 statistics gathered by Howard University, an HBCU in Washington, D.C., men constitute no more than 40 percent of the enrollments in the majority of the HBCUs.

Suber says that once the college has collected enough information, she will ask SEF to assist in identifying the specific factors that contribute to Saint Augustine's continued success in attracting and retaining male students.

Going forward, Suber is determined to complete the college's \$25-million capital endowment campaign, increase alumni participation and raise additional scholarship dollars.

"We've stabilized and secured the college. Now we're determined to enhance and build the institution for the future."



Southern Education Foundation works to improve education for low-income students.

[@ more@mott.org](http://more@mott.org)

Mott's grant caps a \$6-million campaign to endow the Southern Education Foundation.

EXPLORATORY & SPECIAL PROJECTS

MISSION: To support unusual or unique opportunities addressing significant national and international problems. (Proposals are by invitation only; unsolicited proposals are discouraged.)

Historically and Predominantly Black Colleges and Universities

Phelps-Stokes Fund

Washington, DC
\$100,000 - 24 mos.
Ralph Bunche Societies National Initiative for Minority Leadership Development

Southern Education Foundation

Atlanta, GA
\$1,800,000
Endowment for Center to Serve Historically Black Colleges and Universities

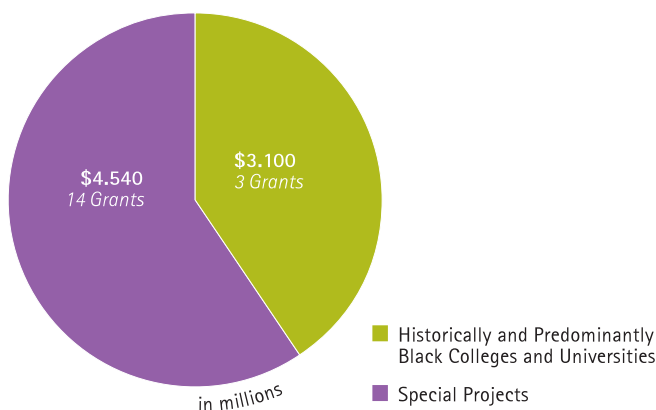
\$1,200,000 - 36 mos.

Center to Serve Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Program Area Total: \$3,100,000

Historically and Predominantly Black Colleges and Universities

Grant Activity \$7,640,000 17 Grants



Special Projects

3iG International Interfaith Investment Group

Amsterdam, Netherlands
\$150,000 - 12 mos.
Development of products and services

Center for Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI
\$50,000 - 12 mos.
Michigan Defining Moment campaign

Center for Strategic & International Studies

Washington, DC
\$180,000 - 36 mos.
Preparing next generation for world of change

CompuMentor

San Francisco, CA
\$100,000 - 12 mos.
Patriot Act compliance project for Mott grantees

Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy

New York, NY
\$200,000 - 24 mos.
National Commission on Adult Literacy

Council of Michigan Foundations

Grand Haven, MI
\$200,000 - 24 mos.
Government performance improvement initiative

National Organization on Disability

Washington, DC
\$300,000 - 36 mos.
AW2 Careers Project

Olivet College

Olivet, MI
\$750,000 - 19 mos.
Renovation and endowment for Ruth Rawlings Mott Auditorium

Phelps-Stokes Fund

Washington, DC
\$200,000 - 12 mos.
Smart Teachers As Role Models (STAR) national initiative

Tällberg Foundation

Stockholm, Sweden
\$150,000 - 36 mos.
Tällberg online

Tides Foundation

San Francisco, CA
\$200,000 - 24 mos.
Connect US Fund

University of Massachusetts - Amherst

Amherst, MA
\$10,000 - 9 mos.
"Journalism That Matters" conference

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI
\$2,000,000 - 12 mos.
Michigan Fund for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

William J. Clinton Foundation

New York, NY
\$50,000 - 12 mos.
General purposes

Program Area Total: \$4,540,000
Special Projects

Program Total: \$7,640,000
Exploratory and Special Projects

EMPLOYEE & TRUSTEE GRANTS

In addition to its regular grantmaking, the Foundation also encourages charitable giving by its Trustees and staff. The Foundation's match to these contributions is included as part of its total grant budget.

Employee/Trustee Matching and Trustee-Initiated

Employee/Trustee Matching

Program Area Total: \$1,088,289
Employee/Trustee Matching

Trustee-Initiated

Program Area Total: \$780,000
Trustee-Initiated

Program Total: \$1,868,289
Employee/Trustee Matching & Trustee-Initiated

TOTAL: \$108,719,540
All Grants