

Sloan Higher Education Program

Boston University Meet the Funder Event

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**ALFRED P. SLOAN
FOUNDATION**

Driven by the promise of great ideas

About Sloan



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- Nonpartisan, not-for-profit grantmaking institution dedicated to improving the welfare of all through the advancement of scientific knowledge
- Founded in 1934 by Alfred P. Sloan Jr.
- \$2.0 billion endowment, awarded \$87.1 million in grants in 2022
- Staff of 36 including internal investment team
- Founding member of the Science Philanthropy Alliance



Sloan Grant Programs

•RESEARCH

- Economic Institutions, Behavior & Performance
- Energy & Environment
- Matter-to-Life
- Tabletop Particle Physics
- Sloan Digital Sky Survey
- Sloan Research Fellowship

•TECHNOLOGY

- Better Software for Science
- Data & Computational Research
- Scholarly Communication
- Exploratory Grantmaking in Technology

•PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING

- Books
- Film
- Radio
- Television
- Theater
- New Media

•HIGHER EDUCATION

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in STEM Higher Education

•LOCAL

- NYC Program



The mission of the Sloan Foundation is to make the world a better place by advancing the frontiers of knowledge. We pledge to pursue that mission in ways that make the institutions of scientific endeavor more diverse, more equitable, and more inclusive to all.



Higher Education Program



Strategic Priorities:

1. Invest in widening pathways to STEM graduate education
2. Empower universities to transform graduate education
3. Support innovative efforts to increase diversity in the STEM professoriate
4. Pursue systemic change
5. Examine our own practices
6. Coordinate and collaborate with others



Informed By:

1. Gaps in funding by federal and private sources
 - a) DEI-focused funding declines as the “pipeline” progresses
 - b) Investments are largely focused on the individual and not on systems
2. Gaps in knowledge (which reflects gaps in funding)
 - a) More known about patchwork efforts than systemic ones
3. A shifting legal and policy landscape (more on this in a moment)
4. Independent research on Sloan-funded efforts
 - a) Recent evaluation of Sloan’s University Centers of Exemplary Mentoring initiative



Approach

1. Grantmaking with a systemic change lens
2. Emphasis on Minority Serving Institutions and other institutions
“doing the work”
3. Collaboration and coordination with other funders for greater impact



Signature Initiatives

- Sloan Centers for Systemic Change (formerly University Centers of Exemplary Mentoring)
- Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership
- Creating Equitable Pathways to STEM Graduate Education



Other Grantmaking

- Supporting Sloan grantees and the higher education community at large in navigating a shifting legal landscape
 - AAAS Diversity and the Law project and related projects
- SREB Institute on Teaching and Mentoring
- Pathways to graduate education in economics
- Developing and supporting equity-minded leaders
- Occasional conference/convening grants



More About Private Philanthropy





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Thank you!