



Foundation for
Excellence in
Higher Education



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

15 January 2026

Princeton, NJ – The Foundation for Excellence in Higher Education (FEHE) has received a [\\$10 million grant](#) from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to implement a multi-year project to revitalize the humanities at universities across the United States. The grant will enable FEHE to identify new grant-making opportunities, offer increased mentorship and professional development to scholars at all stages of their career, and support professors in the humanities in developing robust new curricula.

“FEHE provides a broad forum for students studying the hard or social sciences to engage with the humanities. I find this to be the greatest benefit of FEHE, and I am sure that students need the humanities to undergird their own studies and ambitions,” said Arthur Brooks, Parker Gilbert Montgomery Professor of the Practice of Public Leadership at Harvard University.

FEHE is an independent, non-partisan, grant-making organization. FEHE’s mission is to strengthen elite universities and form the next generation of leaders in academia, law, politics, medicine, and business by providing funding and guidance to a network of pre-selected programs. Currently, FEHE supports a [network](#) of 25 programs and institutes at 15 elite universities in the United States and the United Kingdom, plus two independent academic organizations.

“FEHE’s proposal, which will support new humanities-focused programs, create new postdoctoral and teaching fellowships, and train existing humanities faculty to innovate and flourish in the academy is of vital importance to society. I can think of no group more qualified than FEHE to work to recover the humanities within the modern university,” says Dr. Meg Chisolm, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Chisolm is the director of the Paul McHugh Program for Human Flourishing, a FEHE grantee.

The NEH grant will increase the ability of the FEHE network to offer mentorship opportunities for undergraduates and graduate students, an increased number of graduate scholarships and post-doctoral fellowships, and more funding for course development and teaching fellowships. In addition, the grant will allow FEHE to develop new partnerships and programs in the humanities. Kelly Hanlon, Director of Operations for the Foundation for Excellence in Higher Education, will serve as the project director for the NEH grant. Hanlon says, “In our increasingly polarized society, it is vital that students have access to robust humanities education that grounds them in respect for the dignity of every human being and equips them to interact confidently and civilly with ideas they don’t agree with.”

The grant comes at a key time for civics education in America, as many states’ university systems are developing civics programs and private universities are looking for ways to revive flagging humanities programs. Luis Tellez, President of FEHE, says, “Higher education has an opportunity

right now to return to its purpose: To form the next generation in character and virtue, so that they can face the challenges that lie ahead with courage and wisdom. FEHE is uniquely situated to be a voice of reason, reform, and hope in the years ahead.”

Established in 2012 as an independent, non-partisan, grant-making organization, FEHE funds and advises programs at elite universities where the next generation of leaders are formed.

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Media inquiries should be sent to FEHE at press@excellenceinhighered.org, or the NEH at media@neh.gov.