

Fact Sheet #2: Fundraising potential

Mark Dennis, Professor, Religion Department, Director, CALM Studies, Texas Christian University; and
Blake Hestir, Professor, Philosophy Department, Texas Christian University

“Each of these centers has been able to raise tens of millions of dollars in donations because philanthropists recognize that these evidence-based practices offer clear and significant benefits to struggling college students while also recognizing the immense value of being at the forefront of a movement sweeping across higher education that focuses on a holistic vision of human flourishing.” (BPMH-PSD, pg. 65)

“TCU Chancellor Victor Boschini was so impressed by Davidson’s work that he asked Davidson if we could visit the center in December 2023 to gather ideas about fundraising the millions of dollars that will be required to establish the TCU CALM Center for Student Flourishing.” (BPMH-PSD, pg. 66)

John Dunne, Distinguished Professor of Contemplative Humanities, Co-Director, Wisconsin Student Flourishing Initiative Core Faculty, Center for Healthy Minds, Tenured Faculty, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Our administration has made it clear that an especially promising aspect of this work is the way that it can give students the knowledge and skills to face these challenging times before they find themselves requesting counseling appointments that may require weeks on a waiting list.” (BPMH-PSD, pg. 74)

David Germano, Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Director, Tibet Center, University of Virginia

“I am a full professor of Buddhist Studies at the University of Virginia (UVA). I have also led initiatives on entrepreneurship, digital technology, cultural documentation, student flourishing, and contemplative sciences for three decades. In this context I have raised almost two hundred million dollars for UVA through private donors, federal grants, and foundations, over half of which has been focused on innovative programs targeting innovation in K-12 and higher education that facilitates student flourishing in the face of the aforementioned mental health crisis, including research, pedagogy, and application in regards to contemplation.”

“I have never seen such openness and passion on the part of the donors as I have seen over the past decade for contemplation and student flourishing.” (BPMH-PSD, pg. 83)

Jeffrey C. Walker, Philanthropist, Chairman of New Profit, Vice Chair in the Office of the United Nations Special Envoy for Health; Board Member: University of Virginia, Berklee College of Music, Grammys Music Education Coalition, On Being, Just Capital, AMP for Health, UVA’s McIntire School of Commerce, Harvard Business School, MIT Media Lab, Harvard School of Public Health; Recipient of the John C. Whitehead Award for Social Enterprise, Harvard Business School Club

“I know BPMH to be a unique and important undergraduate program focused on rigorous research and innovative experiential learning relating to student flourishing. This issue stands at the center of my own work.” (BPMH-PSD, pg. 100)