Mhat we fund

Our grantmaking philosophy is shaped by a combination of research, community-informed feedback, and the legacy established by our founder, Ewing Marion Kauffman. It is also grounded in a four-pillar framework of proximity to community, getting uncomfortable, achieving impact, and creating hope. Our grantmaking opportunities encompass four focus areas.

Essential Competencies and Skills

Growing the mindsets, behaviors, knowledge, and skill sets essential for success in school and career

FOCUS AREAS

Participation and Belonging

Cultivating an environment where everyone can participate and feel seen and valued, regardless of background

Education and Employer Connection

Strengthening the ties
between education and
employers to create
a more relevant
and prepared
workforce

Equitable Access

Making learning pathways affordable and capital accessible to all learners, workers, and entrepreneurs

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- College completion: Durable skills and goals integrated into coursework; apprenticeships/ internships
- Workforce: Certification/skills development; onthe-job coaching
- Entrepreneurship: Support organizations (e.g., ESOs); mentoring/ coaching

- All: Participation stipends, childcare, internet access, ecosystem supports
- College completion:
 Higher ed equitable access strategies, mentoring, access to college prep programs, application support
- Workforce: Employer dashboards on minority and women employees at all levels; celebration of model employers
- Entrepreneurship: Communities of practice, startup support

- College completion:
 FAFSA support,
 increasing Pell Grant
 and state aid, making
 community college
 free for residents,
 scholarships
- Workforce: Training scholarships, subsidized apprenticeships/ internships
- Entrepreneurship:

 Intermediary lenders
 focused on minority owned businesses;
 professional networks of minority lenders; equity
 scorecard for lending
- College: Early college programming, on-thejob learning for credit, apprenticeships, fully integrated collegejob training-work experience
- Workforce/ Entrepreneurship: Innovative pathways from school to employment; development of training programs for in-demand and nextgen upwardly mobile jobs

