Dear Brandeis Faculty Members,

Here is the first of what I hope will be monthly newsletters from the Brandeis Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations (CFR), conveying recent news and items of interest from the world of corporate and foundation funding. As noted below, we’ve also renovated the CFR website to include more resources for Brandeis faculty seeking foundation funding for their work. I hope you find these useful, and I welcome your feedback.

Michael Dettelbach
Corporate and Foundation Relations

Microsoft deepens longstanding commitment to philanthropy with expanded vision, new organization

Microsoft recently announced the reorganization and expansion of its philanthropic/CSR efforts into a separate division, Microsoft Philanthropies, “to drive greater inclusion and empowerment of people who do not yet have access to technology and the opportunities it offers and enables.” The new organization will oversee the company’s recent commitment of $75 million over three years to increase access to computer science education for all youth, especially for those from under-represented backgrounds, through the company’s existing YouthSpark initiative, established under former CEO Steve Ballmer. >>Read more

Hewlett Foundation makes $2.1 million in new grants for cybersecurity initiative

With a string of recent grants for cybersecurity, the Hewlett Foundation is widening its efforts to fully build out this field. The foundation last month announced nearly $2.1 million in cybersecurity grants to five organizations, including the New America Foundation ($500,000), Public Knowledge ($275,000), the Virginia Tech Foundation ($500,000), Center for Democracy and Technology ($400,000), and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars ($400,000). >>Read more

Arcus, NoVo Foundation Announce Groundbreaking Philanthropy Initiative to Improve the Lives of Transgender People

The Arcus Foundation, a global foundation dedicated to the idea that people can live in harmony with one another and the natural world, and the www.novofoundation.org, one of the world’s largest private foundations supporting efforts focused explicitly on girls and women, announced a five-year philanthropic initiative focused on improving the lives of transgender people worldwide. >>Read more

MacArthur Overhauls Approach to Focus on Big Bets

The MacArthur Foundation announced that it will eliminate support for many of its longstanding programs to focus its grantmaking on a smaller number of “big bets”— curbing climate change, overhauling the criminal justice system, and impact investing. >>Read more

Giving to Food Causes Is Increasingly Popular — and More Complicated

A growing number of foundations, donors, and nonprofits are keenly interested in improving the way food is raised, encouraging better nutrition, and supporting more fair systems of food production and distribution. >>Read more

Carnegie Corporation of New York Announces Grants in International Peace and Security

At its quarterly meeting in December, Carnegie’s Board approved 25 grants totaling $27M+, including $500,000 to Northeastern University for “Learning from the Arab Region and the Balkans: policy development related to transnational crises” and $569,900 to Georgetown University for a project to strengthen graduate training and research in Russian and Eurasian Studies. >>Read more

Hewlett Foundation Grants $350,000 to Yale School of Management’s Program on Social Enterprise

Under the leadership of faculty director Sharon Oster, Frederic D. Wolfe Professor of Management and Entrepreneurship, the Program on Social Enterprise supports scholars, students, alumni, and practitioners interested in exploring the ways in which business skills and market disciplines can be harnessed to most effectively and efficiently achieve social objectives. The Hewlett grant will support research on incentives relevant to evidence-informed policymaking: incentives for researchers to produce policy-relevant evidence, and those for policymakers to use this evidence
in their decision making. The research will include stakeholder and system mapping, in-depth interviews, and production of eight case studies. >>Read More

**CFR Website**

**Introducing the new Corporate and Foundation Relations website!**

The Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations launched its new and improved website this month, featuring a guide for faculty seeking funding, links to grant opportunity databases, a calendar of key foundation RFPs, and recent grants awarded to Brandeis. We encourage all faculty to review the resources and services on our website.

**Contact Us**

Please visit our website for more information.

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For questions about the CFR Digest, please contact Miranda Marchese.