Mellon Foundation awards $1.5 million to Vanderbilt for new Center for Digital Humanities

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded Vanderbilt University a $1.5 million grant to establish a Center for Digital Humanities. The grant is expected to complement the work already being done through a Mellon Partners for Humanities Education grant that links Vanderbilt with Berea College, Tennessee State University and Tougaloo College. Faculty, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows will have funding opportunities through Mellon Fellowships in the digital humanities. The center also will host a new dual-degree PhD program (comparative media analysis and practice) and a creative media lab. >>Read more

$5.75 Million Templeton Foundation Grant to Focus on Improving Public Discourse

The University of Connecticut has received a $5.75 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation in support of research into ways of balancing humility and conviction in public discourse. The grant is the largest for the humanities ever awarded to UConn, and is one of the largest humanities-based research grants ever awarded in the United States. The grant to UConn's Humanities Institute will fund three public forums, a number of summer institutes for high school teachers on how to incorporate intellectual humility into their classes, an online course and a series of awareness-raising media initiatives. >>Read more

Google Announces $700,000 Grant to 'Tikkun Olam Makers'

Google recently announced a $700,000 grant to an Israel-based initiative aimed at producing technology to help people with disabilities. The search engine giant's grant to Tikkun Olam Makers (TOM), was announced as part of the Google Impact Challenge: Disabilities campaign. Nineteen other organizations received similar grants. TOM is an Israeli disability technologies initiative that holds three-day innovation makeathons in which engineers and technologists come together to invent products for people with disabilities — like a bionic hand or a walker that helps disabled people climb stairs. TOM has created 120 product prototypes since 2014. >>Read more

Land O'Lakes Donates $500,000 to Planet Forward at The George Washington University

Land O'Lakes recently donated $500,000 to Planet Forward, a project organized by the Center for Innovative Media at The George Washington University. Planet Forward promotes innovative ideas to address food, water, energy and environmental challenges confronting the planet, and also serves as the outreach component and innovation research hub of GW’s interdisciplinary sustainability initiative. The gift by Land O'Lakes will provide general operating support for Planet Forward and its public events over the next three years. Land O'Lakes has donated more than $850,000 to the program since 2011 in an effort to reach and educate people about the importance of agriculture. >>Read more

Carnegie Corporation of New York Announces the 2016 Andrew Carnegie Fellows

Continuing its support for scholars in the social sciences and humanities, the Carnegie Corporation of New York has announced a new cohort of Andrew Carnegie Fellows. Each of the 33 fellows will receive grants of up to $200,000, enabling them to devote up to two years to research and writing, leading to the publication of a book or study. Chosen from among 200 applicants who were nominated for consideration, the winning researchers submitted proposals addressing a range of issues, from firearms and justifiable homicide, to economic and demographic shifts in rural America, to the abolition of prisons, to the resettlement of refugees and asylum seekers. >>Read more