

RIVIER UNIVERSITY AWARDED \$205,000 FOR STRENGTHS-BASED WELLNESS PROGRAM

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The Davis Educational Foundation recognized the University with a three-year, \$205,000 grant for Rivier to develop a new program titled *Strengths-Based Well-Being: Connecting Learning and Life*. The campus-wide project is aimed at strengthening students' self-concept, well-being, retention, and post-graduate success. This initiative aligns with the University's *Vision 2020* Strategic Plan to incorporate strengths-based strategies for both student success and staff development.

"One of Rivier's distinctive strengths is its belief that developing and supporting well-being is an integral part of a holistic education," says **Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM**, Rivier's President. "We approach this project as a community of learners, investing in the growth and success of our students."

All students are expected to benefit, with the greatest gains anticipated for students who have yet to identify a desired major and career path. "The Davis Grant will enable our students to identify their innate strengths thereby increasing their self-awareness and self-confidence," says **Dr. Brad Stull**, Professor of English and the project's director. "The program will increase students' resiliency and assist them in negotiating the transition from high school to college, and, ultimately, to their lives after graduation." Guiding students' vocational discernment early in their college careers supports their successful journeys to graduation and employment in the 21st-century workforce.

In addition, Rivier faculty will conduct a longitudinal study to assess the project's long-term impact. The University plans to share program innovations with the greater academic community. ■

Note: The grant was received from the Davis Educational Foundation established by Stanton and Elisabeth Davis after Mr. Davis's retirement as chairman of Shaw's Supermarket, Inc.