

DAVIS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION GRANT ENHANCES STUDENT SUCCESS

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When the COVID-19 pandemic required educators and students to pivot to online learning almost overnight, Rivier’s academic community responded to the challenge. Faculty transitioned their face-to-face courses to online and supported students during an unprecedented time. Recognized for the use of technology and plans for the future, the University has been awarded a three-year, \$233,749 Davis Educational Foundation Grant to continue to enhance student engagement and success through the use of educational technology.

“While Rivier has long employed a web-based platform to facilitate in-class and online learning, in spring 2020 our professors quickly transitioned from in-person classes to online classes incorporating new audio, video, and collaboration tools to elevate the Rivier student experience,” shares **Dr. Brian Ernsting**, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The grant will fund a multi-year project, *Teaching, Technology, and Student Engagement*. The project’s main goal is to improve student engagement via the effective use of educational technology, which studies have shown increases persistence, graduation rates, and overall student success. Digital tools will focus on cultivating student connections with faculty, peers, and advisors.

In addition to investments in hardware and software for technology-enhanced classrooms, the grant supports training for faculty and academic advisors in the effective use of these resources. ■