

F.M. KIRBY FOUNDATION SOLICITATION EVALUATION FORM

DATE: December 5, 2019
Last grant acknowledgement: Yes
Program Area: Education

REQUEST DATE: October 31, 2019

APPLICANT:
Wake Forest University
PO Box 7226
Winston-Salem, NC 27109

CONTACT: Dr. Nathan O. Hatch, President

PHONE: 336-758-5211

PAYEE OTHER THAN ADDRESSEE:

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$250,000 **NATURE OF REQUEST:** Toward the Academic Commons project

GRANT HISTORY

LAST GRANT DATE: 11/27/2019 **LAST GRANT AMOUNT:** \$25,000 **AFS DATE:** 10/23/2018

2015	\$25,000	12/23/2015	For: The Wake Forest Fund
2016	\$25,000	9/30/2016	For: The Wake Forest Fund
2017	\$25,000	9/29/2017	For: The Wake Forest Fund
2018	\$25,000	9/28/2018	For: The Wake Forest Fund
2019	\$25,000	11/27/2019	For: The Wake Forest Fund

JJK COMMENTS: All supplemental material included with prior 2019 grant.

The proposed Academic Commons, will house the university's humanities departments, currently scattered about the campus. The Academic Commons will also play host to classrooms and common areas. According to WFU President Nathan Hatch, learning spaces will be "interactive and flexible -- ready to accommodate the dynamic delivery of education in the 21st century." Additionally, it appears that the building will be central to the academic experience of first- and second-year students. We hear that the Commons would be modeled upon the current Farrell Hall of the Business School, which was designed to "streamline and inspire scholarly work, collaboration, and faculty-student interaction."

The Leadership and Character program, which we focused on in our November 2019 EF, will most likely be housed here as well, which provides a nice synergy between these grants.

The recommendation is to support the Academic Commons project with a \$250,000. In the letter to accompany the grant payment, we will encourage WFU to seek support for this project in 2020 as well.

SDK COMMENTS: I recommend \$250,000 to the University as allocated below. This is a "late bloomer" this year, because our management team recognized we had a bit of excess capacity within our budget based on several factors, and from a short list of opportunities this seemed like the best investment at this time. As I will state in my Dec. 6th President's Report: "In discussion

APPLICANT: Wake Forest University

with Alice, there is an effort afoot to build a new classroom facility to house the humanities which are currently scattered around the campus. Alice has shared that President Nathan Hatch considers this his last major priority before likely retiring in 2-3 years, and there are confidential discussions to name this building Hatch Hall (currently it is being referenced as the Academic Commons). We expect to receive a multi-million dollar request toward this project, and Alice endorses this grant within the context that we shall expect a 2020 multi-year pledge grant request; this grant may represent a 'down payment' on an eventual \$2.5 million-\$3 million commitment from us, if the final budget costs and funds raised from others suggests that this is prudent." Between now and our December 13th meeting, Alice may have an additional update for us that she can relay at our meeting and provide even more comfort in this recommendation.

DISPOSITION:

- Declination
- Hold for review on/about:
- Approval for: **\$250,000**
- Hold for Board Review
- Insert Information: **Toward the proposed Academic Commons project; specific allocation within that project to be determined**
- Other: **SDK 12/16/19 letter to accompany grant check**

Initials: AL

Date: 12/5/19

Check #: _____

Date: _____