



The Foundation for Your Future Grant Initiative

Spring –Summer 2026 Cycle: Student Career Readiness Challenge

The *Foundation for Your Future* Grant is a funding opportunity open to ETAMU faculty and staff by invitation to support activities that contribute to undergraduate student career readiness.

In this cycle, awards are available of up to \$1500 to support undergraduate student travel and research during spring 2026 and summer 2026. Awards must be expended or encumbered by August 1, 2026. Any remaining or unencumbered funds will be returned to the QEP budget.

Purpose

The grant supports projects that enhance faculty or staff-mentored career readiness experiences for undergraduate students. Funding may be used for:

- Student travel
- Student research

Funding is not available to pay for release time. Awards may be applied to faculty and staff travel expenses when accompanying students to a professional conference, networking event, or other relevant activity.

Eligibility

All full-time faculty and staff at East Texas A&M University are eligible to apply.

Letter of Intent Requirements

Letters of intent should be submitted through the [grant application portal](#). Letters must include the following:

- **Project Narrative (max 500 words):** Describe rationale, project goals, student learning outcomes, deliverables, timeline, and how the project supports career readiness and QEP priorities.

- **NACE Competency and Assessment:** Identify which QEP NACE Competency – [Career and Self-Development](#), [Critical Thinking](#), or [Professionalism](#) – this project addresses and how student achievement of this competency will be assessed, including but not limited to written reflection, public presentation, or eportfolio. The current assessment protocol for QEP experiences is available [here](#).
- **Budget Worksheet:** Submit a budget using the provided template.
- **Letter of Support:** From the applicant's Dean, Department Head, or Supervisor.
- **Supporting Materials:** Any other documentation that strengthens the proposal.

Evaluation Criteria

Strong proposals must include mentoring, professionalism, critical thinking, and career and self-development and at least one of the following elements:

- Collaborative, interdisciplinary work
- Leadership development
- Professional communication
- Project management
- Community engagement
- Undergraduate research and creative activities
- Applied problem solving
- Technology literacy
- Networking

Review Process

The QEP Leadership Team will evaluate applications and select recipients. Letters of interest will be accepted on a rolling basis until funds are expended. Applicants will be notified within 7 business days regarding the status of their application.

Reporting

Applicants who receive a grant are required to submit a brief report on the project's outcomes upon completion. This report must include assessment results.

Questions

Please email Dr. Vanessa Quinn (vanessa.quinn@etamu.edu) with any questions.