

Excellence Opportunity Awards

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to submit an application for an *Excellence Opportunity Award*?

Any faculty or staff member is eligible to apply. The applicant must be employed by EOS or in a codified EOS position such as a coach or a director (the affiliation does not require full-time employment by EOS).

What type of applications will the Foundation review?

Applications responsive to the purpose of this initiative are those requests for funds to support unanticipated opportunities with high potential to enrich the student learning experience. An unanticipated opportunity is one that arises outside of the annual grant mechanism – examples may include special invitations for student performances or competitions, unanticipated field trips to events that offer direct extension of learning objectives, or opportunity to bring speakers that promote mission and priorities of the school and community.

What can I ask for in a budget?

Appropriate budget line items include direct support for unanticipated costs associated with opportunity to demonstrate and/or enhance excellence of the Edwin O. Smith learning experience for faculty/staff and students. Budget categories relevant to direct costs are allowable – such as faculty/staff/student travel, student fees, or consultant/speaker costs. Supporting justification in the form of brief narrative is required for each item, and when applicable, cost estimates should be appended to the application.

Funding is not intended to cover supports that should fall within the regular school budget. Foundation grants are intended to supplement, not supplant, traditional public funding. Cost-share from other sources is allowable and desirable.

What are reviewers looking for in a strong application?

Responsive applications to the *Excellence Opportunity Award* initiative include requests that demonstrate the opportunity is:

- Unanticipated (direct supports that fall outside of the annual grant mechanism)
- Unique
- Prestigious
- Not covered by alternative sources

When will I receive feedback on my application?

The Foundation will make every effort to respond by the requested deadline for review.

Who can I contact to get more information?

We want your application to be successful - and are here to help answer your questions as you craft a winning proposal! For example, we are open to setting up meeting opportunities to discuss proposal ideas.

Foundation points of contact within the school include:

- Cassandra Rowett, crowett@EOSmith.org
- Shawn Santasiere, ssantasiere@EOSmith.org

To contact the Foundation directly, please email eosmithfoundation@eosmith.org