

3-11-2019

## March 11, 2019 - From the President's Desk

Cheryl B. Schrader  
*Wright State University - Main Campus*

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## March 11, 2019 - From the President's Desk

Dear  
Campus  
Community,

One theme  
that came  
out loud and  
clear at our  
campus-  
wide  
strategic  
planning  
sessions this



past year is our commitment to student success. I'm thrilled that the Wright State University Foundation took action right away and created the Students First Fund—a new grants program designed to support innovative ideas that assist students to succeed, thrive, persist, graduate, and begin their careers.

Do you have an idea that could impact student success at the Dayton or Lake campuses? Then consider applying for a Students First Fund grant. All Wright State students and employees with a creative concept to promote student success are welcome to apply for a grant. Applications must be submitted on the Students First Fund website by March 15.

We are proud to partner with the Wright State Foundation in this important endeavor. The Foundation will provide one-time seed money to help launch a new program or initiative that might otherwise go unfunded. The Students First Fund grants committee, which consists of members of the Foundation Board of Trustees, will review all applications and make the final decision on how to distribute the \$50,000 in grants funding. Grant recipients will be announced in April, and the funding will be available for use in fall 2019 semester.

Please note the fund is not a scholarship initiative. The ideal project will provide a unique approach to supporting students as they earn their degrees and be self-sustaining within two years. The average grant ranges from \$3,000 to \$8,000. I'm grateful to the Wright State Foundation for taking ideas forward with a growth mindset.

Funding areas include programs or activities in support of student success, such as: success initiatives, leadership programs, educational enhancement, workforce development activities and programs, community/corporate engagement, mentorship, experiential learning, and student life and campus engagement.

Initiatives that meet the following descriptions will be of high interest to the grants committee: new pilot projects, innovative projects, projects serving high numbers of students, projects that have the support of college/unit leadership and/or originate from sanctioned student organizations, and expansion of current student success projects.

For more information, visit [wright.edu/StudentsFirstFund](http://wright.edu/StudentsFirstFund).

I was so impressed with all the great ideas generated from people all over campus during our strategic planning process. I can't wait to see what you'll come up with next!

Warmest regards,

Cheryl B. Schrader, Ph.D.

President

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Posted Monday, March 11, 2019

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