

**Assessing and Addressing [Student] Economic Challenges at Talbot School of Theology**

**:: Major Grant Program Outcomes**

* Students in the Master of Divinity degree program will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of financial literacy, and use appropriate resources to minimize debt.
* Gains in student affordability will be shown by significant increases in scholarship funding for students enrolled in the Master of Divinity degree program.
* Collaboration with primary stakeholders will be indicated by cultivation of partnerships for their strategic import to the purposes of the grant program.
* Major grant program outcomes will demonstrate sustainability in integration of biblical and practical principles of financial literacy in student practices and in the curriculum, and in fundraising strategies.

**:: Significant Project Activities To-Date**

* Research preparation regarding aspects of financial literacy: created questionnaires to be sent to MDiv students, spouses, and alumni, and questions to be used in focus groups and interviews with randomly selected students, student spouses, and alumni.
* Conducted student focus group to identify obstacles in soliciting anonymous financial information from students and student spouses, and pretest student, spouse, and alumni questionnaires, focus groups, and interview questions.
* Interview with Talbot Field Education Director and Director of alumni support ministry regarding obstacles and resolutions in interacting with alumni regarding financial matters.
* Preparation of application for permission to conduct research on the campus of Biola University to submit to the Protection of Human Rights in Research Committee.
* Initiated bibliography of financial literacy and other financial resources.

**:: Resources**

* Auburn Theological Seminary, Center for the Study of Theological Education (CSTE), Finance and Student Debt: <http://www.auburnseminary.org/research>
* Denver Seminary, Financial Aid, Loan Management: <http://www.denverseminary.edu/become-a-student/financial-aid/loan-management/>
* FinAid: The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid –

Financial Aid web page dedicated to helping those struggling to pay off debt:
<http://www.finaid.org/loans/troublerepayingdebt.phtml>

* National Student Loan Data System: <http://www.nslds.ed.gov/nslds_SA/>

**:: Projector Director**

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