United Theological Seminary

Dayton, Ohio

**Lilly Grant to Address Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers**

**Program Name**: Financially Fit 2 Lead

Key Objectives: The Financially Fit2Lead program will look to target masters students from all denominations and is designed to improve the economic well-being of future ministers by focusing in four key areas:

1. ***Gathering Data from Students and Alumni/ae*** to better understand the challenges they face;
   * Surveys for entering students, graduating students and alumni/ae
2. ***Optimizing the Applicant’s Understanding*** of financing options, career opportunities and budget planning;
   * Pre-admission counseling, debt management counseling, salary expectations, budgeting tools and development of a personal financing plan
3. ***Improving Financial Literacy*** to better equip students and alumni/ae to manage personal debt, successfully administer financial priorities in their ministry context and understand how modeling financial leadership may affect congregational giving;
   * Alumni/ae Ambassador mentor program, student seminars, ongoing financial counseling and alumni/ae seminars
4. ***Implementing an Ongoing Assessment and Refinement Process*** to measure the impact of the program and ensure the success of United’s students and alumni/ae.
   * Program assessment, student feedback, market trend analysis, Federal guideline changes and ongoing program refinement as needed

**Significant Activities to Date:**

* Hired a program manager
* Created and administered an alumni/ae survey to establish a baseline of understanding of financial issues.
* Researched online financial literacy programs and tools for student use
* Purchase of online mentoring community software VineUp

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