

The Next Generation Initiative at Franklin & Marshall College

Franklin & Marshall College has long offered one of the most rigorous and empowering undergraduate educations in the country, preparing independent thinkers to become leaders, creators, and problem-solvers in all walks of life. We are committed to affording that opportunity to high-achieving students everywhere.

We know that smart and driven young people are found in every segment of the American economy and in every community across the country. But, each year, tens of thousands of talented, lower-income high school students don't apply to the selective, rigorous colleges for which they're qualified—a phenomenon known as “undermatching.”

Educational opportunity is critical to America's future success, and F&M has moved decisively to expand its financial aid resources, enhance its admission outreach, and form partnerships with leading national school networks and access programs, including KIPP, Cristo Rey, Uncommon Schools, Achievement First, College Match, Noble, the School District of Lancaster, and Posse. We meet the full demonstrated need of every student.

This comprehensive Next Generation Initiative—a talent strategy—aims to prepare tomorrow's leaders drawn from the full American mosaic, and to enhance the educational experience for all F&M students.

- In 2008, the Board of Trustees approved an aggressive growth strategy for student aid. Since then, the financial aid provided to each first-year class has nearly tripled, from \$5.8 million for the Class of 2012 to \$14.6 million for the Class of 2020. We will sustain and continue to build upon this higher level of aid. We meet the full demonstrated financial need of every student we accept and adjust aid packages to reflect tuition increases.
- In 2011, the College developed an innovative three-week F&M College Prep summer program for rising high school seniors. The program serves more than 70 students annually from the KIPP, Uncommon Schools, Mastery, Achievement First, and Noble Networks, as well as public schools in Lancaster,

rural Pennsylvania, and elsewhere.

- In 2012, the College recruited a national expert in student success, Donnell Butler, Ph.D., to catalyze our efforts to smooth all students' transition to college and develop effective assessment measures for student progress and achievement.
- In 2012 F&M created an Office of Student & Post-Graduate Development to bolster our career advising for students during their college years and at least five years beyond graduation.
- In 2012, F&M became the third institution and the first liberal arts college to partner with the Posse Foundation to enroll annual cohorts of 10 full-scholarship students who plan to major in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) disciplines. These students come from Miami, Fla., with the first group admitted in the Class of 2016. This doubles F&M's work with Posse; we have enrolled 10 students from New York City each year since 2005.

**F&M is the third institution
and the first liberal arts college
to agree to host a STEM Posse.
The program has since expanded
to include five more highly
selective institutions.**

RECENT POINTS OF PRIDE:

- The proportion of incoming students who are eligible for Pell Grants has risen dramatically in recent years, from 5% for the Class of 2012 to 19% for the Class of 2020.
- The Class of 2020 comprises 23% students of color, up from 11% in the Class of 2012.
- The average SAT scores of the first-year class have remained at the same high levels since 2008, and F&M is significantly more selective than it was a decade ago.
- First-generation students and Pell Grant recipients at F&M consistently retain from their first to second year at the same rate and achieve the same B average as their full cohorts.
- Students receiving need-based aid at F&M graduate at the same rate as, and with higher average GPAs than, the total student body.
- Since 2012, the average debt at graduation of students with debt has decreased by more than \$6,000 from \$33,200 for the Class of 2012 to \$27,000 for the Class of 2016.
- In recent years, F&M has won several grants to support the Next Generation Initiative, including \$1 million from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation and \$300,000 from the Lenfest Foundation to lead college counseling efforts in rural Pennsylvania through the College Advising Corps, and \$220,000 from the Booth Ferris Foundation to support a faculty-led cohort mentoring program for first-generation students.
- An active proponent of collaboration between the K-12 and higher education communities, F&M president Daniel Porterfield serves on the governing boards of the College Board, the Lenfest College Scholarship Foundation, and on presidents councils for Teach For America and the College Advising Corps. In 2012, KIPP awarded him its “Beyond Z” Award in recognition of F&M’s creation of a partnership framework for leading colleges and universities with the KIPP network, and in 2014 he received the Eugene M. Lang Lifetime Achievement Award from the “I Have A Dream” Foundation for this leadership in the area of college opportunity.
- F&M has received significant national recognition for its Next Generation Initiative. The New York Times, the Washington Post, the Education Trust, and the New America Foundation have profiled F&M’s work, and President Porterfield has appeared on NBC News’ Education Nation and delivered remarks at White House summits in Washington, D.C. and Boulder, Colo. In the much-publicized 2014 College Access Index produced by the New York Times, F&M ranked 26th out of 100 leading colleges and universities.
- In 2016, F&M helped to launch the American Talent Initiative, a national alliance of leading colleges and universities supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Aspen Institute, and Ithaca S+R, with a goal of increasing by 50,000 the number of high-achieving, low-income students in the nation’s colleges and universities with graduation rates of at least 70%.

“America’s leading colleges and universities need to seize opportunities to provide more students from the full American mosaic with the kind of rigorous liberal arts education and holistic growth that transforms talented 18-year-olds into lifelong learners and leaders.”

—Daniel R. Porterfield, Ph.D., *President of the College*