



“The Fund for Academic Renewal will guide donors who create college programs by providing academic and legal expertise, thus protecting donor intent and academic excellence.”

—Diana Davis Spencer

# Fund for Academic Renewal

a program of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni

College alumni and donors know how essential our higher education institutions are to the nation's future.

They want to help our colleges and universities live up to their highest ideals: to prepare students for citizenship and career success; to maintain America's edge in a globalized economy; and to preserve and transmit the legacy of civilization's greatest works and achievements. That's why the **Fund for Academic Renewal** (FAR) works with college donors and their advisors to help navigate the giving process and ensure gifts make an enduring and meaningful impact.

FAR is the only organization in the country whose mission is serving donors like you, donors with a passion for supporting academic rigor, traditional liberal arts curricula, and free expression. As a program of the **American Council of Trustees and Alumni** (ACTA), donors utilizing FAR's services benefit from ACTA's more than two decades of expertise in the field of higher education reform.

We collaborate with family offices, advisors, and individual donors to articulate their philanthropic goals, preserve donor intent, and structure gifts to colleges and universities that foster academic excellence and intellectual diversity.

In addition to FAR's donor advisory services, donors can also support higher education through FAR's Special Purpose Funds. These funds support new or existing programs in essential liberal arts subjects: American History, Government, & Statesmanship; The Western Tradition; Science & Mathematics; and Economic Literacy—as well as our Free to Teach, Free to Learn Fund, which focuses on the cultivation of free expression and intellectual diversity. A liberal arts education is crucial to ensure this generation of students are prepared for strong careers, active citizenship, and to be thoughtful adults and lifelong learners.

Are you ready to make a difference in higher education through targeted philanthropy? Let's start a conversation about planning your next gift.

[See what people are saying about FAR.](#) ➤



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## What people are saying about FAR . . .

“It has probably never been more difficult to donate prudently to higher education than it is today, when so many basic assumptions about the aims of higher education and the norms of scholarship are in dispute. ACTA’s Fund for Academic Renewal is an invaluable asset to any donor who wishes to make informed decisions.”

— Truman Anderson, The Stuart Family Foundation

“I appreciate the assistance of the Fund for Academic Renewal in structuring the gift and my agreement with UVM . . . FAR’s guidance led us to insert provisions in the gift agreement that we would never have thought of. These provisions will ensure that my objectives for the gift will be honored by the University for many years to come.”

— Angelo Pizzagalli, University of Vermont donor

“Higher education philanthropy has never been more important to the preservation of liberty, the transmission of our cultural heritage, and the advancement of scientific knowledge. With debates raging about free speech on campus, and skills gaps threatening our nation’s competitive economic edge, philanthropists can play a powerful role in restoring excellence to our higher education institutions.”

— Jacqueline Pfeffer Merrill, Intentional Giving Blog, DonorsTrust

“We all have fond memories of our college years. But increasingly, many alumni cannot recognize their alma maters, because the deep immersion in the liberal arts they remember has given way to hyperspecialized research and classes on trendy topics. During my years as a university president and philanthropic leader, I found that the Fund for Academic Renewal was a resource for sound advice and creative ideas to ensure that undergraduates receive a high-quality education that prepares them for career and citizenship. This is a vital initiative for donors who wish to find new ways to support a renewal of academic life in this country.”

— The Honorable Hank Brown, President Emeritus, University of Colorado; former U.S. Senator, Colorado; former President & CEO, Daniels Fund

“Donor restrictions can call institutions of higher learning to their highest ideals.”

— Frank M. Turner, former Provost, Yale University

“My commitment to the Fund for Academic Renewal is based on a spirit of optimism. . . . Graduates and other donors want to help their universities to be their very best. With the Fund for Academic Renewal, there is now a way for them to do it.”

— Herbert Wiley Vaughan, Esq.  
founding member of ACTA’s Donor Working Group

“Friends of academic excellence and academic freedom have something new to be excited about: the Fund for Academic Renewal. The Fund supports and encourages the creation of centers of excellence at colleges and universities around the country. It provides alumni and other supporters with an opportunity to put their generosity to work in ways that are consistent with their values and which reflect their belief in high standards of scholarship and teaching.”

— Robert P. George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence & Director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, Princeton University

“One never knows what will happen with programs such as mine, but I’m sure that we will be in a better position to thrive because of our association with ACTA and FAR. So, sincerely, thanks.”

— Charlotte Thomas, Professor of Philosophy, Mercer University; Co-Director, The McDonald Center for America’s Founding Principles

“Protecting donor intent is the key to ensuring gifts have some broader vision behind them. The ongoing crisis of higher education stems from a loss of just such a vision . . . The coherence of a liberal arts education in particular seems less obvious than ever, even at America’s leading colleges. FAR recognizes this disconnect, and thus recognizes the potential for motivated donors to have a real hand in shaping—or better, restoring—college identities.”

— Travis LaCouter, *Philanthropy Daily*