



College of Southern Maryland
F O U N D A T I O N

Senate Bill 0254
College of Southern Maryland Foundation, Inc.
Unfavorable Report
February 9, 2022

The College of Southern Maryland Foundation serves as the fundraising arm of the college. We are a separate and distinct 501(c)3 organization with an all-volunteer board of members from across all three counties representing every facet of business and industry. We work to connect donors and regional partners in support of our students, faculty, programs, and community by cultivating relationships and stewarding assets consistent with our donors' intent. The Foundation was formed in 1970 to serve and support the mission of the college.

It is the responsibility of a college's president to provide vision for the College and continuous leadership and direction for the planning and operation of all aspects of the College's programs and services. Dr. Maureen Murphy, president of the College of Southern Maryland, fulfills this responsibility remarkably. It was Dr. Murphy who taught the Foundation the credo that, "equality is giving everyone a shoe; equity is giving everyone a shoe that fits."

To that end, Dr. Murphy approached the Foundation about establishing an endowed "Distinguished Professorship for Equity in Education." She believes so strongly in the power of education as the most powerful tool for social justice, that she donated a remarkable \$20,000 towards the creation of the endowment and was matched by 50 donors to a current value of \$40,850. Here is the inspiring description:

Distinguished Professor for Equity in Education

The College of Southern Maryland is social justice through education. It exists solely to provide programs and services that support the social and economic mobility of people in the Southern Maryland region. It is equity in action, and the root of that action is in the classroom, irrespective of discipline, in the interaction between professors and students.

This is hard work and requires the continual support and professional development of excellent and committed faculty. One means to facilitate that professional development is through the Distinguished Professor for Equity in Education program.

The Distinguished Professor for Equity in Education is an honor granted to an exemplary professor of any discipline at the College of Southern Maryland. The goal of the Distinguished Professor program is to recognize faculty excellence and promote further faculty excellence through funds for faculty professional development.

The Distinguished Professor for Equity in Education is responsible for coordinating an annual lecture on a topic related to equity, which shall be open to the public, as well as working with the Provost to provide additional professional development opportunities for faculty, which may include seminars, conferences, webinars, lectures, and other activities, to include the challenges begun in 2019 by the Office of Equity and Inclusive Diversity.

The Distinguished Professor is funded through the College of Southern Maryland Foundation. The income generated by the endowment does not augment the Distinguished professor's compensation, but rather augments the college's ability to provide faculty professional development and outreach to the college community.

This is just one example of how the College of Southern Maryland is dedicated to equity and inclusion. The Foundation and the college president are leading and funding the fight. The idea that contravening legislation is needed is preposterous. An unfunded mandate that does not reflect or honor the current diversity, equity, and inclusion work at the college not only violates our governing board's autonomy, is reprehensible at its core.

Sincerely,

The College of Southern Maryland Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors

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