

## ABOUT US



### OUR MISSION

To inspire and to facilitate improvements that affect educational outcomes—especially among underserved populations—through evidence-based innovation.

### OUR VISION

All learners unlock their fullest potential.

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*According to a 2013 study from Georgetown University, by 2020, the U.S. economy will grow from 140 million to 165 million jobs. To meet the growing economy's needs, it is critical that our education system supports all learners in the career pathway of their choice. By leveraging key points in postsecondary education, ECMC Foundation supports organizations and institutions that provide high-quality programs to students and learners from underserved backgrounds to increase the number of individuals reaching their educational and career goals.*

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**PETER J. TAYLOR**  
ECMC Foundation President

### FOUNDATION OVERVIEW

Based in Los Angeles, ECMC Foundation is a national foundation that makes investments in postsecondary programs and initiatives. It is one of several affiliates under the ECMC Group enterprise based in Minneapolis, which together work to help students succeed.

The Foundation makes investments in two focus areas: College Success and Career Readiness; and uses a spectrum of funding structures, including strategic grantmaking and program-related investments, to fund both nonprofit and for-profit ventures.

### HISTORY AND EVOLUTION

ECMC Foundation was created in 2000 as the philanthropic arm of ECMC Group. For more than 10 years, the Foundation provided millions of dollars in educational scholarships nationwide. A significant change took place in 2014 when the ECMC Group Board of Directors decided to become more strategic in their grantmaking and focus on long-term systemic change in education. The change in direction resulted from the belief that such investments would have the potential to create change that is sustainable and impactful for students on a larger scale.

## INVESTMENT AREAS

The Foundation makes investments in two focus areas: College Success and Career Readiness. In addition to its two core portfolios, it also makes investments in Strategic Initiatives.

**College Success** is focused on increasing the number of college students from historically underrepresented backgrounds, including low-income and first-generation populations, who pursue and attain bachelor's degrees.

**Career Readiness** is committed to connecting adults with limited or no education beyond high school to postsecondary career and technical education pathways that allow for economic mobility and a family-sustaining wage.

### Strategic Initiatives

Outside the core focus areas, ECMC Foundation also conducts grantmaking through the GO! Program and Special Opportunity grants. The GO! Program is designed to involve employees across all ECMC Group affiliates in recognizing organizations that align with the Foundation's mission. All employees have the opportunity to nominate organizations they care about in their local communities to receive grant funding. ECMC Foundation's Special Opportunities grants are designated by ECMC Foundation leadership. Investments in this area reflect a mix of education-related programs and initiatives.

## INVESTMENT METHODS

ECMC Foundation uses a spectrum of investment structures, including strategic grantmaking and program-related investments to invest in nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

### Strategic Grantmaking

ECMC Foundation awards grants that support organizational capacity building, new program or model development, existing program refinement or expansion, capital, research, and evaluation across its two core focus areas: College Success and Career Readiness. Approximately \$30 million in grants are awarded annually to organizations, programs and institutions located across the United States.

### Education Innovation Ventures

ECMC Foundation's program-related investments portfolio uses loans, deposits, equity and guarantees to make below market-rate investments to for-profit and nonprofit organizations and enterprises that seek to generate both social impact and financial returns. Financial returns are reinvested into additional program-related investments, allowing us to recycle investment dollars and generate further positive impact on learners' lives.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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