

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date July 23, 2018

Contact Information

Organization Name: Williamson College of the Trades
Address: 106 S. New Middletown Rd., Media, PA 19063
Phone: 610-566-1776 (X246)
Website: <https://www.williamson.edu>
Year Incorporated: 1945

Executive Director Name: Michael J. Rounds
Executive Dir. E-mail: mrounds@williamson.edu
Board of Directors Chair: William J. Bonenberger
Primary Contact Name: Arlene Snyder
Primary Contact E-mail: asnider@williamson.edu

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes ___ No X Not Sure ___
Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes ___ No X Not Sure ___
___ Donor Advised Fund(s) ___ Fund for Chester County ___ Don't know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:

___ Arts, Culture & Humanities ___ Environment/Animal Welfare
___ Health ___ X Education
 ___ Human Services
 ___ Religion

Organization Information:

Geographic Area Served *(If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions)*
Chester County, Delaware County, Philadelphia County and the surrounding areas. 12 students of the incoming freshman class and 11 students in the junior and senior classes are from Chester County and 51 of the 175 recruiters that attended this year's Career Fairs were from Chester County.

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

Each year Williamson admits to its 3-year program approximately 100 male students that come from low-income families, foster families, and families with parents that are incarcerated.

Mission:

Williamson College of the Trades prepares qualified young men to be respected leaders and productive members of society.

Proposal Summary:

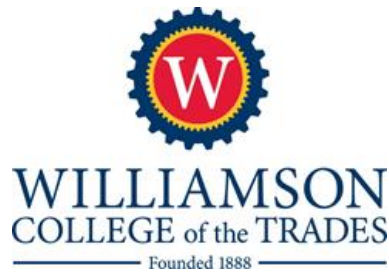
Williamson College requests a grant of \$8,125 to fund one student scholarship and to help Williamson accomplish its mission of providing a values-based trades education to students in need without charging for tuition, room, or board.

Annual Budget \$ 8,468,480	59 Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
65 % of budget for program expenses	21 Board Volunteers
26% of budget for administrative expenses	100 Active Non-Board Volunteers
9 % of budget for fundraising expenses	1,200 Volunteer Hours
<i>100 % total</i>	

Top 3-5 funding sources:

H. F. Lenfest, Franklin Burke, Scott DeWire

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 8,125



II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

1. ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY, GOALS, KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND DISTINCTIVENESS

Isaiah Vasant Williamson, a Philadelphia merchant and philanthropist founded Williamson College of the Trades in 1888 as The Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades. The college's mission has not changed significantly from its founder's vision as laid out in his Deed of Trust nearly 130 years ago. Williamson strives to instill best practices in trade education to qualified students who could not otherwise afford higher education. The uniqueness of a Williamson education lies in the commitment to not only train and educate each student in his chosen vocation, but also to teach values and help each student grow personally. The goal is to foster the proper attitudes for success in life and on the job, including self-discipline, personal integrity, and reliability.

Enrollment at Williamson currently exceeds 260 with all students required to live on campus Monday through Friday in a close-knit, supportive environment. Modeled after the realities of the work world, students rise early each morning for lineup, breakfast and chapel followed by four hours of academic instruction and four hours of shop-related theory and training. The 13:1 student/faculty ratio reinforces a personal approach with faculty intensely involved in students' instruction. Students participate in sports, student government, yearbook, musical organizations, religious groups, and other extracurricular activities. Courses have changed slightly to reflect the growing needs of industry. Williamson offers Associate in Specialized Technology Degrees in Paint & Coatings Technology; Machine Tool Technology; Power Plant Technology; Construction Technology (Carpentry/Masonry); and Horticulture, Landscaping & Turf Management, as well as Craftsman Diplomas in Carpentry and Masonry.

The highly structured environment includes a dress code which includes wearing a jacket, dress shirt and tie to class and meals. Students have work detail assignments with clearly defined responsibilities that support daily operations. Five core values: Faith, Integrity, Diligence, Excellence and Service govern the Williamson experience. Self-discipline, reliability and excellent workmanship are qualities that students develop during their three years at Williamson.

2. FUNDING REQUEST

Williamson students come from economically challenged families who would otherwise not be able to further their education due to financial circumstances. Candidates must be able-bodied, single males without children, in good health, and must not have reached their 20th birthday prior to the first day of June of the year they wish to enter the college. All applicants must be legal residents of the United States.

The college does not discriminate based on race, color, creed, religion, or ethnic background. A high school diploma or GED is required. In addition to meeting specific academic qualifications and moral characteristics, Williamson students must meet financial requirements.

College Cost Estimators, a service employed by Williamson for the first time this year to assess students' financial eligibility for acceptance have provided sobering statistics for the incoming freshman class of 2020. First, and most significantly, the final analysis of accepted students demonstrated that 93% are eligible to receive Pell Grants. This means that even though Williamson does not receive funding from the government, these students qualify as the most deserving in the country. In fact, 50 out of 102 incoming freshmen would receive the maximum Pell grant if Williamson participated in the program.

Some additional statistics include the fact that 52 freshmen live in single-parent or zero-parent households with five of those students regarded as "independent," indicating that they are living with relatives, foster families, etc. Therefore, these students' "parent income" is deemed "zero." Currently 10% of Williamson's student body resides in Chester County. With annual scholarships valued at \$29,000 per student, the cost to fully educate these students over three years is estimated at more than \$2 million.

Each student attends Williamson for three years on a full scholarship which includes tuition, textbooks, room and board. Scholarship support provides day-to-day educational and living expenses for every Williamson student. As the troubled economy causes reduced income from endowment, scholarship support remains more important than ever. Most of this expense is shouldered by the endowment started by our founder in 1888, with greater than 75% of the college's operating funds coming from endowments and investments. The remainder must come from the private support of alumni, friends, corporations and foundations. Currently, our needs require us to raise \$2 million annually to meet operating expenses over and above endowment support. As we do not solicit nor accept any government funding, our challenge to meet the need is great.

Scholarship grants to Williamson remain as important today as they were when Williamson was founded more than a century ago to provide opportunity to qualified young men to become "useful and respected members of society."

In addition to operating support for scholarships, grants for special projects provide the opportunity for Williamson to stand out above other technical colleges. This funding allows students to participate in professional experiences outside the classroom or shop which results in a remarkable skill set for students within their respective trade areas. This ultimately makes all students extremely desirable to scores of major employers in the industries they serve.

Philanthropic support has perpetuated Williamson's mission for more than a century. As the turbulent economy continues to influence finances across the country, the college is determined to maintain the high standards of values-based education it provides to qualified students.

Scholarship support helps meet the greatest need at Williamson funding tuition, room and board for economically challenged students in the 2017-2018 school year. A grant to Williamson College will help to fund scholarships for economically challenged students from Chester County.

3. HOW IMPACT AND RESULTS WILL BE DEMONSTRATED

Success of Williamson programs is evaluated according to many educational standards. They include enrollments, test scores, student retention and, most importantly, job placement. Each year, the demand for Williamson alumni in the workforce far exceeds the number of graduates. This Spring, Williamson graduated 70 seniors, each of whom was offered a position in his field with a reputable employer. While the majority of Williamson seniors receive multiple job offers, a few will enter the military or pursue higher education before committing to a job.

Recent years have presented Williamson with its highest student retention rate ever at approximately 76% as students work hard to meet the college's demanding standards. Nevertheless, this figure more than doubles the national average for associates degree-granting colleges which is currently approximately 29% nationally.

Throughout the year, Williamson hosts two Career Fairs. During the 2017-18 school year, these events attracted nearly 150 recruiters seeking applicants from a pool of 72 graduating seniors. In addition to securing positions for Williamson soon-to-be graduates, many of these companies offer rewarding summer internships and co-ops to underclassmen.

Through its Career Services, Williamson continues to achieve a 93% average job placement rate over 5 years for students who are seeking employment in their trade. Concurrently, many alumni choose to further their educations directly out of school, or start their own businesses. Williamson offers guidance and education in these areas, as well, to ensure success for the various paths alumni choose.

As an organization, Williamson is proud to be certified with the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations' (PANO) Seal of Excellence. With its initial certification in 2008, Williamson remains the only certified organization in Delaware County, PA, and is still the only certified educational institution in the state. Through its certification, PANO recognizes that Williamson continues to meet their Standards for Excellence program, an ethics and accountability code for the nonprofit sector based on honesty, integrity, fairness, respect, trust, responsibility, compassion, and accountability. This is a significant honor as certification under the program is only bestowed on organizations that are the most well-managed and responsibly governed nonprofit organizations and that have demonstrated compliance with eight guiding principles and fifty-five rigorous benchmarks.