

# NETWORKING, CAREER PREP HIGHLIGHT NEW COLLEGE EFFORT

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Boynton

BELOIT - Beloit College students will be able to connect with a network of professionals in their chosen field and obtain more career preparedness thanks to a \$250,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The grant will be for use through June 2021 to support the development and implementation of a program called Beloit Channels, according to Provost Eric Boynton.

Students will have areas or "channels" they can choose from, including business and entrepreneurship; sustainability; health and healing; justice and rights. Additional channels may be added in 2021-2022.

Once students select a channel, they will be able to obtain mentors, suggested courses, internships and field experiences and expertly curated connections between majors, interest and industries. For example, students might be directed to study abroad or opt for a work-study opportunities in their particular channel.

A large portion of the grant funding, Boynton said, is being spent on faculty and staff development as the college embraces its new approach.

"It's emphasizing the why or purpose of education," he said.

The first use of funding was Jan. 10 and 11 at a workshop that brought together faculty, staff and alumni to build out professional networks. About a dozen alumni from different fields and industries attended.

Boynton said Channels is a great way to harness the expertise and talents of alumni, who will come back to help fellow students navigate their chosen field. He called them a "cloud" of advisers seeking to ensure fellow student success.

"Alumni who are entrepreneurs, for example, will come back into these professional networks and mentor and advise our students to put together a curriculum," Boynton said.

For more information on the Channels program, people can visit <https://www.beloit.edu/channels/>

Beloit College was ranked #68 nationwide in National Liberal Arts Colleges, according to U.S. News and World Reports. Schools are ranked according to their performance across a set of widely accepted indicators of excellence, according to the ranking for the 2018-19 academic year.

Beloit College also was recognized as Wisconsin's fourth-best college, according to Forbes' list of America's Top Colleges released in April. Out of 4,300 post-secondary institutions nationwide, Beloit College ranked in the top 15th percentile with a ranking of 257. Rankings include measures regarding student experience, academics and career success.