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## **The Kresge Foundation awards the Michigan Association of State Universities \$300,000 grant to boost student success capacity-building at Michigan's public universities**

**Lansing, MI**—The Kresge Foundation is announcing today a three-year grant totaling \$300,000 to the Michigan Association of State Universities (MASU) to bolster the statewide student success capacity-building agenda among Michigan's 15 public universities, which collectively enroll nearly 300,000 students.

The grant will enhance the association's ability to work with the state universities in collaboration with Michigan's K-12 schools, community colleges and independent colleges, among many other stakeholders, to improve outcomes related to student success. These include increasing student retention and degree completion rates, especially among populations that witness high achievement gaps, and to strengthen the state universities' capacity to generate postsecondary degrees needed to meet the talent needs and educational attainment goals that are vital to powering Michigan's future economy.

"We are very grateful for this support from The Kresge Foundation, which will help build upon and connect the efforts of our public universities across Michigan," said David L. Eisler, president of Ferris State University and chairman of the board of directors of MASU.

"There are many powerful initiatives at work in Michigan to help more low-income students succeed at the post-secondary level," said Caroline Altman Smith, Kresge's deputy director, Education program, "We hope through this partnership that Michigan's public universities will have more support for coordinating those student success efforts, as well as an enhanced ability to conduct multi-institutional projects and research related to student success."

The matching grant will allow the association to hire a new director of student success initiatives, who will facilitate and build upon the robust portfolio of multi-institutional, cross-sector, student success initiatives currently underway at the state's public universities. The search for the position is currently underway. For more details, visit [masu.org](http://masu.org).

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The Kresge Foundation is a \$3.6 billion private, national foundation that works to expand opportunities in America's cities through grantmaking and social investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services, and community development in Detroit. In 2015, the Board of Trustees approved 370 grants totaling \$125.2 million, and nine social investment commitments totaling \$20.3 million. For more information, visit [kresge.org](http://kresge.org).

The Michigan Association of State Universities serves as the coordinating board for Michigan's 15 public universities. The Association provides advocacy, fosters policy and facilitates statewide educational initiatives to maximize the collective value these institutions provide in serving the public interest and the state of Michigan.