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Last week I asked for some help so that our Pathfinders program – the program through Lakeland's Men's Center that helps African-American men succeed in college and move into rewarding careers – could purchase gas cards for students this coming fall. The cards are used as incentives for students to attend class and especially attend bi-weekly motivational sessions, but in many cases, the cards are simply needed by students so they can afford getting to class and to motivational sessions. Within an hour of the Update going out last week, we had our \$2,500. We got a good deal more after that. So, we'll be able to accommodate even more students in next year's program. Thanks to all of you who made this happen.

I know that many of you see that the Foundation primarily raises money for student scholarships. The reality is that we certainly do that; but, we also raise dollars for various programs. Two ways – not the only ways – we award dollars to support programs are through our Faculty Challenge Grants and our Mastin Fund grants. Faculty proposals are first reviewed by the Excellence in Teaching & Professional Development Committee for their feedback, and then by the Foundation's Projects Review Committee, chaired by Lisa Habe, which determines awards.

The committee just made awards for this coming year...a total of \$3,555.50 through Faculty Challenge; in addition they've set aside an additional \$7,500 for projects submitted in this round that need some tweaking before dollars are actually spent. Finally, the committee allocated \$13,000 for two proposals to the Mastin Fund.

The Foundation has made these awards for a number of years and we've funded many terrific proposals. Those proposals turned into programs that made a difference to faculty and ultimately to our students. Here's a sense of what the committee funded through Faculty Challenge Grants this spring: Mark Guizlo's proposal for purchase of a Stream Table so Geography students could better learn about stream and river behavior; Tom Hyland, Michelle Rossman, and Emily Szymanski's proposal for a Student Success Summit / College Research Readiness program for full, part-time and high school faculty to enhance student research capabilities; Kathy Renfro's proposal for Classroom Best Practices in Developmental Mathematics for full and part-time faculty. And here's a sense of what the committee funded with Mastin dollars: financial assistance for qualified families enrolling children in the College for Kids Summer Camps, and a grant to Jon Loufman, a Lakeland part-time instructor, for his

Atmosphere Adventures Science Enrichment Program where Jon takes his hand-on environmental science program to schools throughout the county and serves as an ambassador for Lakeland.

And on top of these awards, we are able to secure a decent amount of additional outside funding to make faculty ideas into reality.

Faculty members, department heads, or deans who want to hear more about our grants program should send me a note so we can get together to clarify how all of this works or so that we can talk about finding funding. If you want to read more about the Faculty Challenge Grant program, go to this link on our website - [The Lakeland Foundation - Faculty Challenge Grants](#). Lakeland staff and faculty can get complete information on the guidelines and submission process for both Faculty Challenge and the Mastin Fund grants by [clicking this link to the Faculty Challenge Grant Page in the MyLakeland Portal](#) and then logging in.

Thanks to all the faculty members who have submitted proposals over the years; thanks to all for their good ideas; thanks to the faculty and Foundation committees for their time and dedication to the program; thanks to all whose ideas our funders have made reality.

And thanks to everyone for all you do for Lakeland.

Bob Cahen
Executive Director