

Gates Foundation Update:

As you know, NWCCU was selected as one of 12 organizations—and the only accreditor—as a grantee in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Intermediaries for Scale Project (<https://postsecondary.gatesfoundation.org/areas-of-focus/transformation/institutional-partnerships/intermediaries-for-scale-rfp/>).

The purpose and vision of the Gates Foundation’s IFS project is aligned with NWCCU’s mission and revised Standards for Accreditation, i.e., focus on data-based and evidence-informed student success and closing equity gaps for poor, first generation, and underserved students.

During the first, 18-month Planning Stage, the grant will be for approximately \$1.5M.

Since January, NWCCU staff has been working with the five self-selected pilot institutions to complete the Institutional Transformation Assessment (ITA) and the completion of this milestone remains on track to finish by mid-June.

A data capacity survey was sent to all NWCCU institutions and is expected to be completed May 1st. The survey has identified 30 institutions that have volunteered to participate in the Postsecondary Data Partnership, and we have sought additional grant funds and are partnering with other regional accrediting agencies to support that work.

Staff have been soliciting and receiving nominations for Commissioners, faculty, staff, and thought-leaders to participate in the Data Advisory Panel and the Equity Advisory Panel, both of which are slated to meet in the Summer to review the results of our early engagement and assessment of our member institutions.

NWCCU staff completed its own assessment of its capacities to work with the foundation, and NWCCU received an additional \$100,000 to support its own capacity-building.

NWCCU also received an additional \$200,000 grant to support its operations related to accreditation and the deployment of its Standards and processes.

The Foundation has signaled that it will be providing additional funds to support institutions who have already volunteered to participating in our pilot activities (ITA and PDP) to address needs related to COVID, and additional information will be forthcoming when received from the Foundation.