



CANYON CENTER FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Robert D. and Patricia E. Kern Family Foundation, Inc. awarded Grand Canyon University a three-year grant of \$2,271,000 in 2022 to support the development of the **Canyon Center for Character Education**.

MISSION STATEMENT

In support of Grand Canyon University's mission, the Canyon Center for Character Education encourages human and societal flourishing by shaping transformative leaders and supporting all professionals to advocate for the common good and advance character education, virtue formation and practical wisdom.

VISION STATEMENT

The Canyon Center for Character Education promotes societal flourishing, cultures of virtuous character and responsible stewardship through collaborative and dynamic partnerships with transformative leaders and communities to infuse character education across diverse professions and environments.

OVERARCHING GOAL

The goal of the Canyon Center for Character Education is to build a national movement around character education using GCU College of Education's vast network of students, faculty, alumni and partners to promote school cultures that encourage human and societal flourishing through virtue formation.

CANYON CENTER FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION INITIATIVES

- Cultivate understanding of character formation with university stakeholders.
- Develop curriculum to deepen the emphasis on character within school leadership programs.
- Similarly, develop two new specialty tracks focused on character to be added within school leadership programs: Christian leadership and educational entrepreneurship.
- Create character content to be made accessible on GCU's existing Professional Learning Network (PLN), a virtual platform for current students and alumni that will include resources, videos, discussion threads and learning modules.
- Engage learning using the PLN, utilizing embedded new content for PLN participants.
- Provide scholarship opportunities to leverage and create new partnerships with school districts.
- Select school leaders, many hailing from the two master's programs in school leadership, to participate at four in-person summits that will focus on character formation and its implementation within schools.