



## Daniels Fund Enables Adult Learners to Complete Undergraduate Degrees

Marie Friedemann, Regis University

All too often, adult learners find that their paths to completing an undergraduate degree become stalled. Many factors, such as job relocation, family emergencies, and extra work responsibilities can slow an adult's progress. Importantly, the cost of higher education and the availability of funds to pay for education become barriers for adults. Regis University has received five Boundless Opportunity Scholarship grants from the Denver-based Daniels Fund. Scholarships of up to \$5,000 per year for each of two years have enabled adult students to complete their undergraduate degrees and either pursue professional opportunities or graduate school following graduation.

Federal financial aid through loans is of considerable help, as are employer tuition subsidies. But for many students, financial concerns remain paramount, and many are at the maximum level of their student loan allowance. The Daniels Fund provides grant funding to institutions that select adult learners to receive scholarship assistance so they can complete their undergraduate degrees. The Daniels Fund is one of few foundations or granting agencies that places a priority on adult learners who seek an undergraduate education.

"As of our data on December 12, 2012, among the 73 recipients of the Daniels Grant within the last five grant periods, 53 or 72.6 percent have graduated," says Marie Friedemann, associate dean of Regis University. "This compares very favorably to the national graduation rate for adult learners of 42 to 54 percent. The Scholarships confirm that financial assistance, most importantly in the form of grants, may be crucial to supporting the completion of education for adults."

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