

Fall 2016

# Erikson on Children

A black and white photograph of a smiling man with glasses leaning over an easel. In front of the easel is a young child, also smiling and wearing glasses. The child is wearing a light-colored apron over a dark shirt and tie. The easel holds a large, abstract painting with dark, expressive brushstrokes. The background shows a workshop or classroom setting with various items on shelves.

Celebrating  
**50**  
Years

## About Erikson Institute

Erikson Institute is the premier independent institution of higher education committed to ensuring that all children have equitable opportunities to realize their potential.

Recognized for our groundbreaking work in the field of early childhood, we uniquely prepare child development, education, and social work leaders to improve the lives of young children and their families. Our impact and influence is further amplified through our innovative academic programs, applied research, knowledge creation and distribution, direct service, and field-wide advocacy.

Because nothing matters more than a child's early years, Erikson Institute educates, inspires, and provides leadership to serve the needs of children and families so that all can achieve optimal educational, social, emotional, and physical well-being.

*On the cover: A child poses in front of his painting in 1990 with Dan Harris, a Chicago Head Start director. Harris was part of Bridge to Professional Leadership, an Erikson leadership initiative for early childhood professionals.*

## A letter from the President

This is a year of celebration for Erikson Institute! Fifty years ago, when we were founded, we were one of the only organizations in the country to focus on the importance of a child's early years. Today, our groundbreaking work continues to define us as pioneers in the field and leaders in the essential work to make a positive difference in the lives of children, families, and communities.

This is also a year of tremendous momentum at Erikson. We've moved into the operational phase of our three-year Strategic Plan, a roadmap that builds on our foundational strengths with strategic priorities that focus our energies in new directions in the classroom and beyond. Just since January, we've made significant progress on a path to deepen our impact through new and expanded programs and initiatives. You can learn more about one such initiative, the expansion of our pro bono services for families who come for evaluation and treatment at our Center for Children and Families, in this issue.

We're looking forward to hearing from David Brooks, Op-Ed columnist for *The New York Times*, at our 50th Anniversary Annual Luncheon on Monday, November 14. We'll also be honoring photographer and longtime board member Kathy Richland Pick with the Spirit of Erikson Institute award. Details on how to purchase tickets or a table are inside.

On behalf of everyone at Erikson, I want to express my deep appreciation to our donors for your generous support of our work. Any gift to Erikson makes it possible for us to deepen our impact and to truly work toward becoming the single most influential force for change in the early childhood field. With great appreciation, we publish our Honor Roll of Donors at the back of this issue.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey A. Nagle, Ph.D.  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Erikson Institute







## 50 years of impact in the lives of young children and families

In 1966, Erikson Institute was one of the first organizations in the country to recognize the importance of a child's early years. Today, we are proud to celebrate the pioneering spirit that continues to bring national recognition to our work in the classroom and beyond. We educate, serve, and lead with a far-ranging impact to improve the lives of young children, families, and communities.

We kicked off our 50th year with street banners around the downtown campus and a "thank you" party that was attended by more than 150 members of the Erikson family—faculty, staff, students, alumni, board members, and longtime friends. We also partnered with the Peabody Award-winning storytelling organization, The Moth, to host an evening of live storytelling. A crowd of more than 130 gathered at Architectural Artifacts in Chicago to hear three members of the Erikson community share uniquely personal stories that connected their own experience and professional passion.

A new homepage to our [www.erikson.edu](http://www.erikson.edu) website creates the opportunity for us to share more stories that highlight the individuals and initiatives that are creating new knowledge and influencing the field. If you have a story you would like to share about Erikson or the importance of early childhood, please go to the website and click the feedback button to do so.

And if you're not yet following Erikson on social media, please do—and use **#Erikson50** to connect with us and share stories and news!

### Support Erikson! Annual Luncheon 2016



Make plans now to attend Erikson Institute's Annual Luncheon on Monday, November 14 at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel in Chicago. Our special keynote speaker is **David Brooks**, Op-Ed columnist for *The New York Times* and analyst for the PBS *NewsHour* and NPR's *All Things Considered*. We also will honor **Kathy Richland Pick**, the award-winning photographer and longtime member of the Erikson Board of Trustees, with the Spirit of Erikson Institute award.

To purchase tickets and see a list of partner levels and benefits, visit [www.erikson.edu/luncheon](http://www.erikson.edu/luncheon).

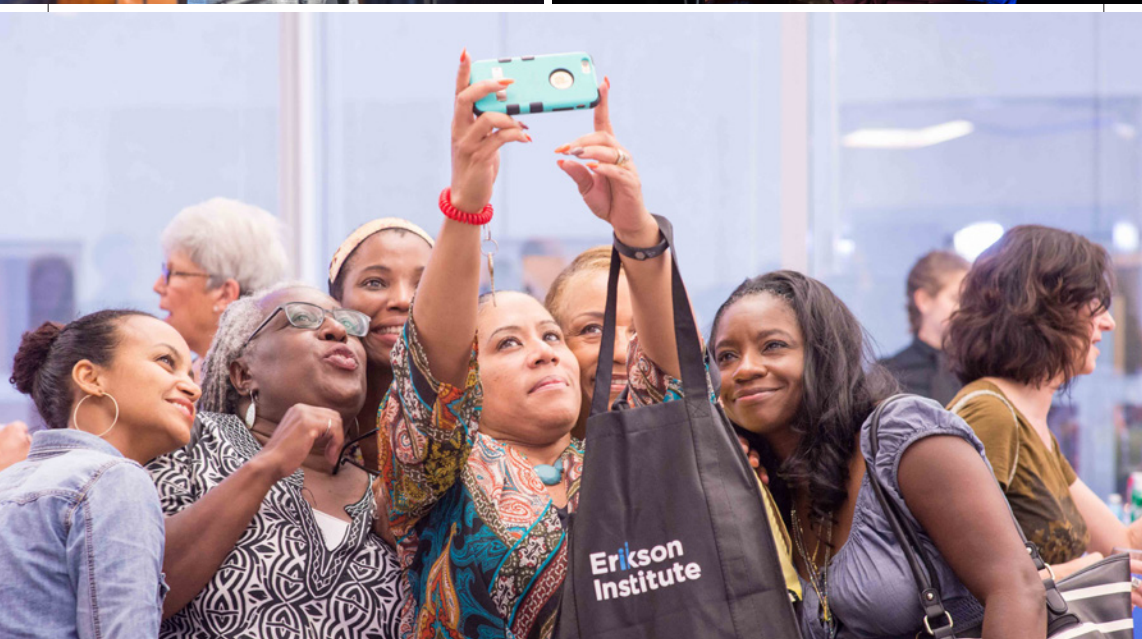
#### Erikson Institute Annual Luncheon 2016

Monday, November 14  
Registration—11:30 a.m.  
Lunch and program—Noon

Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel  
221 North Columbus Drive, Chicago  
Valet parking available  
Business attire



## Kicking off our 50th Year



## Erikson's place in history chronicled on website

Throughout the many social, political, and cultural changes of the last 50 years, our mission has been unwavering—a focus on the importance of early childhood. A new timeline on our website helps visualize how key events in our history have been intertwined with milestones in early childhood as well as important local, national, and international events over five decades.

The timeline also includes numerous historical photos from our archives, many of which are being presented digitally for the first time. These images represent the many facets of our work and the people who have helped make Erikson what it is today.


Take a look at the timeline by going to our home page at [www.erikson.edu](http://www.erikson.edu). Click on “About” in the main navigation space, and then click on “History.”



## Mayoral regards for Erikson's impact

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel sent his regards through a letter that recognizes Erikson's “lasting legacy” and “work that continues to impact generations of Chicagoans”:



“Since its inception, Erikson has created new knowledge around ‘what we know’ and not only shares best practices, but takes time to learn from others around the world. Thanks to their enduring efforts, we now have a voice that shares insight on important issues in a child’s early years. It is no surprise that Erikson has established itself as a trusted voice on the early childhood experience.” 



## New gift supports Center for Children and Families expansion for families in need

A \$1 million gift and an additional \$300,000 matching challenge will enable more families with young children to access high-quality assessment and counseling services.

Since Erikson Institute's Center for Children and Families (CCF) opened its doors in 2009, private philanthropic support has fueled the expansion of its essential services to families and young children across the Chicago area.

The CCF is the only Chicago-area clinic that provides a comprehensive level of assessment for children preschool age and younger and is highly regarded for its distinctive approach to addressing developmental, emotional, behavioral, and learning challenges.

To effectively treat problems, the CCF's team of clinicians evaluates children in all developmental domains, helps families understand the factors influencing their children's behaviors or issues, and works closely with each family to build a therapeutic plan that taps family strengths, values, and goals.



Now, thanks to the Pritzker Foundation's generous multi-year support, more children and families in need will benefit from the CCF's interdisciplinary services. This summer, the CCF received a \$1 million commitment from the foundation with an additional challenge that will match up to \$300,000 in new gifts from other CCF donors.

The potential for \$1.6 million in support will enable the CCF to:

- Increase clinical staff to serve more families in need and reduce the wait time for pro bono therapy services.
- Continue a school-based mental health program serving children in need from preschool through second grade in Chicago's Austin neighborhood, an area impacted by poverty and violence. Through the program, CCF staff build relationships with parents and teachers to help them best address

children's social and emotional needs, particularly as they relate to the effects of trauma. Teachers can also refer students experiencing behavioral or mental health issues for onsite therapeutic intervention.

- Provide rigorous interdisciplinary assessments for children with disabilities, from birth to age 3, who are referred by the State of Illinois Early Intervention system. Many families from diverse backgrounds are referred to the CCF for additional medical diagnosis evaluations. This can be the only opportunity for their children to receive high-quality care, which is provided at no additional cost to families but is not fully reimbursed by the state.

"So many children, families, and communities are facing trauma and challenges," says Margret Nickels, Ph.D., director of the Center for Children and Families. "From the beginning, we have worked to support them with the highest quality comprehensive services. We are grateful to the Pritzker Foundation for generously responding to this critical need and for their leadership in agreeing to match the support of others. Building relationships and trust in communities and with families takes time, and the generosity of the foundation has enabled us to do this."

The CCF is committed to equal care for children and families regardless of income level or insurance coverage. Its interdisciplinary staff of experts—including psychologists, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, social workers, and developmental therapists—help families understand their children's challenges so they can build a therapeutic plan.

Since 2013, the number of families receiving services increased by 17 percent, and to date, the CCF has served 2,800 families with young children in the Chicago area. The foundation's support has helped the CCF reach many underserved families with pro bono or reduced-cost services and enabled the center to open its first satellite clinic, which is located near the Austin neighborhood.

Through that clinic and the main location on Erikson's downtown campus, the CCF has assisted an increasingly diverse population of families. Last year, 40 percent of clients were from low-income backgrounds, and 46 percent were families of color. For nearly 19 percent of families, English is not the main language spoken at home.

"The need for support for low-income families is not going away, and the complexity of meeting the needs of these families has increased," Dr. Nickels says. "At the CCF, our goal is to provide excellent services to all families, regardless of their income level or any other factors." [ii](#)

# Erikson Institute launches programs to advance STEM education for young children

A technology lab and model for professional development in mathematics equip early childhood leaders with tools to support and foster STEM learning

Erikson's work in the emerging field of early STEM—science, technology, engineering, and math—incorporates finding developmentally appropriate ways to use the latest research, tools, and resources. Two programs launched this year provide early childhood leaders with meaningful ways to teach children and help parents use math and technology tools with children to learn and explore.

## STEM Lab

The **STEM in Early Childhood Lab**, a project of Erikson's Technology in Early Childhood Center with matching funds from an Exxon-Mobil education initiative, is an innovative, hands-on approach to professional development for Erikson students, alumni, and faculty. The goal is to create play-based

learning experiences for young children that incorporate technology tools appropriately to support a child's exploration of science, engineering, and math concepts. Participants are encouraged to ask "Why use this tool?" as they explore using technology with young children and their families, and to determine when and when not to integrate technology

in education, home visiting, healthcare, and informal learning.

"Many early childhood programs are handing their educators, home visitors, child life specialists, developmental therapists, and social workers tablets to document their work and to help young children and parents use technology tools to learn, create, communicate, problem solve, and explore," says Tamara Kaldor, assistant director of the Technology in Early Childhood Center. "This



lab empowers participants to lead with child development knowledge to make informed decisions about the role of technology in young children's lives."

Participants will attend workshops and webinars, produce a final project that includes STEM play and lesson plans, and showcase their work at an event in the spring. They also will interact with the TEC Tools Collection at Erikson's Edward Neisser Library, which was established with the Exxon-Mobil funds and enables students, alumni, and faculty to borrow tangible tech items to study or use in the field.

## Collaborative Math

This fall, Erikson's Early Math Collaborative launched **Collaborative Math**, which provides Head Start centers with professional development training for teachers, math activities to engage parents, and new math resources. The two-year study, in partnership with the City of Chicago and with support from the National Science Foundation, will measure whether this professional development model can establish Head Start Centers of Excellence in mathematics where quality early math learning is fostered, celebrated, and sustained.

"Research shows that early math knowledge is the single most powerful predictor of future school success," says Lisa Ginett, assistant director of instruction for the Early Math Collaborative. "With strong foundational math knowledge and skills, the children in these centers will more likely go on to become fully numerate students and citizens."

Collaborative Math will reach approximately 200 teachers, better preparing them to provide quality early math experiences to more than 3,000 children in Head Start, a federally funded early childhood program for low-income children and their families. [ii](#)



# Erikson Institute community updates

## Remembering former Board Chair Dick Kiphart, 1941-2016

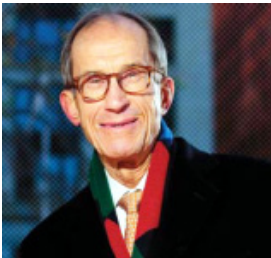
Throughout his life, Dick Kiphart touched many lives in Chicago and around the world through his personality, work, and philanthropy.

Kiphart, who died September 10 at age 75 after a long illness, also had a tremendous impact on Erikson Institute, serving as chair of the Board of Trustees from 2006 to 2010, a time of momentous change.

“Dick Kiphart was one of the few people I have known where everything is possible,” says Michelle L. Collins, current Erikson board chair. “His indomitable spirit was infectious and spurred Erikson to significant growth. Most important to him were his wife, Susie—herself an Erikson graduate—and their children and grandchildren.”

During his tenure as board chair, Kiphart was instrumental in shepherding Erikson’s capital campaign to completion, and he played a key role in the construction of the institute’s permanent campus building in downtown Chicago. After his retirement as board chair, he was named one of Erikson’s life trustees.

“Dick Kiphart was one of the first people I had dinner with after moving to Chicago and coming to Erikson,” says Geoffrey A. Nagle, Ph.D., Erikson’s president and chief executive officer. “I was amazed by his passion for Erikson and his enthusiasm and energy for all of his philanthropic work around the world. He was truly inspiring from the first moment I met him.”



Dick Kiphart

Born in Milwaukee in 1941, Kiphart joined Chicago-based investment banking firm William Blair & Co. in 1965. He worked there in numerous roles and was named partner in 1973, before retiring as a member of the firm’s Executive Committee in January.

Long passionate about new technologies, he championed many start-up companies dating back to the 1980s. After his recent retirement from William Blair, he continued to support new technology companies, helping start KDWC Ventures, a firm that invests in Chicago-area tech start-ups.

In addition to his leadership role at Erikson, Kiphart served as board chair of the Lyric Opera, Columbia College Chicago, Merit School of Music, and The Poetry Foundation. He also served as a board member of Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago and numerous other institutions.

Kiphart’s wife, Susie, graduated from Erikson in 1973 and received an honorary doctorate from Erikson in 2014. Together, the Kipharts have been dedicated philanthropists. For years, they have contributed funds and their own labor to help construct schools and dig

wells in Ghana and lead health initiatives in Nigeria. Kiphart also served on the board of DATA, a foundation led by U2 singer Bono, dedicated to raising money for programs related to debt, AIDS, and trade in Africa.

In addition to Susie, his wife of 50 years, Kiphart is survived by his three daughters as well as seven grandchildren.

## Husband of former Erikson Board member dies at 91

The Erikson community sends deepest condolences to former board member Harriet Meyer and her family following the death of Harriet’s husband, Ulrich Emil “Rick” Meyer.

Rick Meyer, who fled Nazi Germany with his father in 1939, was a philanthropist and businessman who founded the Carpetland chain of stores and helped start the Bubbleland chain of laundromats.

Connections to Erikson and the early childhood field run deep in Meyer’s family. Not only was Harriet Meyer an Erikson trustee from 1991 to 2007, but she also received an honorary doctorate in 2006 and the Spirit of Erikson Institute award in 2011. For two decades, she served as president of the Ounce of Prevention Fund, advocating for quality early childhood education nationwide.

In addition, Rick Meyer’s daughter, Claudia Rozenberg, graduated from Erikson’s M.S. in Early Childhood Education program in 2010.

## Erikson welcomes new faculty to academic programs

The 2016-17 academic year began with the addition of three faculty members whose talents, research interests, and professional experience will strengthen our academic programs.

**Laura Grandau, Ph.D.**, joins our teacher education faculty as an assistant professor. Previously, she was an assistant professor of education at Lake Forest College, and has a background in child development, teacher education, and mathematics development in early childhood through elementary school. Her research has focused on children’s thinking, teacher learning, and instructional leadership. She also taught young children for many years and has served as lead teacher, special education

assistant, and curriculum coordinator. She completed her Ph.D. at University of Wisconsin-Madison in curriculum and instruction with a dual focus on teacher education and mathematics teaching and learning.

**Nucha Isarowong, Ph.D., LCSW**, comes to Erikson with experience in social work focused on infants and toddlers, children with special needs, and children growing up in urban communities. He joins our Master of Social Work and M.S. in Child Development programs as an assistant professor, a role in which he will draw on his clinical experience as well as his knowledge of child development, particularly infancy, to help prepare the next generation of leaders. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration.

**Florence Kimondo, Ph.D.**, is known to the Erikson community in a variety of capacities—senior instructor, field education liaison, research associate, project director for several initiatives, and a core member of the Steering Committee that developed the M.S.W. program. Now, she joins us as an assistant clinical professor and acting director of the M.S.W. program. Throughout her time at Erikson, she has worked effectively across boundaries such as race, culture, and gender, while engaging students in critical thinking and challenging them to reflect thoughtfully. She completed her Ph.D. at Erikson.



## New trustee joins the board

**Lori A. Laser** has worked as a volunteer to make a difference in the lives of children and adolescents in Chicago’s north suburbs. Now, she is volunteering her time for the benefit of young children as a member of Erikson’s Board of Trustees.

Laser has long been committed to making high-quality education accessible to all children and has been inspired by Erikson’s mission and study on mindfulness in the Chicago Public Schools. She attributes her views on children and education to her own experiences, including growing up on a farm in rural Iowa, being the first in her family to attend college, and being a mother of four children, and she hopes these experiences help bring a unique perspective to the board.

Laser has been actively engaged with organizations that serve children and families in her community and beyond, including the Family Action Network, Glencoe Youth Services, and Youth and Opportunity United. She is certified as a Court Appointed Special Advocate in Lake County, and helped create a yoga and mindfulness program for Evanston youth. Laser earned her bachelor’s degree in finance from the University of Iowa and worked for John Nuveen and Company in municipal bond sales before starting her family.



## Class notes

Erikson Institute alumna and former staff member **Shelley J. Levin, M.Ed. '77**, died in September at the age of 62. In 2013, she became Director of Career Services at Erikson, a position she held for one year, and she also spent five years as an adjunct faculty member. Throughout her career, she was an early childhood faculty member at Columbia College Chicago, Harper College, Oakton Community College, and Prairie State College. She also worked as a director of early childhood programs and professional development advisor for Illinois Gateways and consultant to numerous agencies and programs. She earned her doctorate in college leadership from National-Louis University. She is survived by her mother, two sisters, two children, and three grandchildren.

**Michael Phair, M.Ed. '73**, was recently appointed chair of the University of Alberta's board of governors. A former Edmonton City Council member, Phair was the first openly gay elected official in Alberta, Canada, and is currently an adjunct professor.



*Shelley J. Levin, M.Ed. '77*

In addition to sitting on the city council, he also has held roles in other organizations, including the Edmonton Social Planning Council, Edmonton Homeward Trust, and the North Saskatchewan River Valley Conservation Society.

This summer, **Brenda Arksey, M.Ed. '77**, retired from the Chinese American Service League after 30 years working for the organization's Child Development Center. In her most recent role, she served as director of child education and development services.

**Jeanna M. Capito, M.S. '00**, president of the Alumni of Erikson Institute Board, and her husband, Kevin

Mendenhall, welcomed their second child, Teresa Mae, on August 23. Teresa joins her proud big brother, Vince!



**Jessica Ruiz, M.S. '09**, recently traveled to Colombia to teach a course called Social Justice: The Influence of Lasallian Students at the Summer Academy program at Universidad Lasalle in Bogota.

## Host your event at Erikson

Whether you're planning a large conference, staff retreat, or reception, Erikson can accommodate your needs. Erikson's striking, modern building is state-of-the-art, convenient, and affordable. To learn about options and availability, contact David Wilson at 312.893.7200 or [dwilson@erikson.edu](mailto:dwilson@erikson.edu).



**Honor Roll of Donors  
2015-16**



## From the Board Chair



I am pleased to have the opportunity once again to thank all of our donors for your generous support of Erikson Institute. Your contributions enable Erikson to give thousands of children a strong and healthy start in their young lives.

This year, we are celebrating a remarkable milestone—Erikson's 50th year. I hope that many of you will be able to either attend one of our events or connect with us through our website or on social media throughout the year. Not only

are we celebrating the many historic achievements of Erikson and our faculty, program directors, and staff, but we are also working to build a broader awareness around what we do as we make a difference in the lives of young children and their families.

Recognizing that the communities in which thousands of children live are constantly changing and providing new challenges and opportunities, Erikson is fully committed to a three-year Strategic Plan, "Impact and Influence," that identifies four key areas, our Grand Challenges, where we believe Erikson can make a meaningful and positive impact.

The four Grand Challenges are:

- Leading the transformation of the early childhood workforce in America and beyond
- Improving the lives of children by increasing the quality of support for their families and communities
- Informing the mindful integration of technology and digital media to improve the well-being of children, families, and communities
- Ensuring a future in which all children have equitable opportunities to realize their full potential through leadership and policy influence

If you haven't yet had a chance to do so, I invite you to read the full plan by visiting the "About" page on [www.erikson.edu](http://www.erikson.edu).

With implementation efforts underway, we are so grateful for the support of so many who have chosen to stand with us to meet these Grand Challenges and support our initiatives. It is so meaningful to look to the future with hope and aspiration for young children and families while we have so much to celebrate from the past.

I look forward to meeting and thanking as many of you individually as possible at various events scheduled through the year, and hope to see you at our 50th Anniversary Annual Luncheon on Monday, November 14. You can find details in this issue.

Thank you again for your tremendous support. We are honored to be the recipient of your generosity and intend to faithfully execute on our mission to improve the lives of children and families.

With gratitude and in shared commitment,

Michelle L. Collins  
Chair, Erikson Institute Board of Trustees

## Honor Roll of Donors 2015–16

The generous support of the following donors has enabled Erikson Institute to advance its mission of improving the lives of children and families. The honor roll reflects gifts and pledge payments of \$10 and above received from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Thank you!

\*Erikson alumni affiliation

^Erikson trustee, former trustee, or trustee affiliation

### Visionary Circle \$250,000 and above

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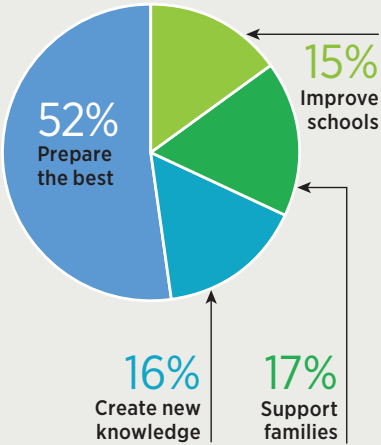
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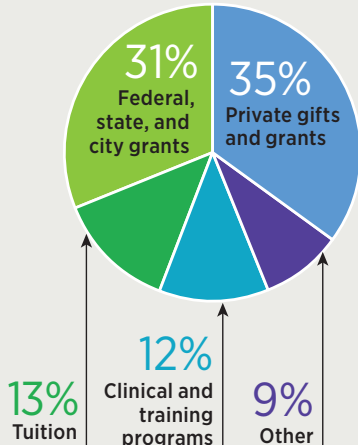
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Fall 2016

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