

# 2024-2025 4D Infusion Grants for Cultivating Character



**4D Experience**  
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

## Overview

The 2024-25 4D Infusion Grants support faculty and staff with \$1000 in seed funding to conceptualize, develop, and implement a project that cultivates character in DU undergraduate and/or graduate students. In line with the 4D Experience, projects should aim to elevate character to enhance students' life-long learning, engagement, and thriving.

## What is Character?

Character is a set of enduring dispositions that define who people are and shape how they think, feel, and act. These dispositions include virtues that guide people to respond emotionally, cognitively, and/or behaviorally to challenges or opportunities in ways that create, sustain, and/or repair ethically sound relationships or lead to the common good. Moral virtues include dispositions such as compassion, courage, temperance, hope, benevolence, and trust. Intellectual virtues are those habits that allow for thinking and learning, such as intellectual humility, curiosity, creativity, and tenacity.

Examples of character-related curricular and co-curricular projects:

- Practicums that allow student to practice empathy and compassion in their work as healthcare providers, teachers, or coaches
- Lab work that asks students to reflect on their failures, engage in creative problem-solving, and humble themselves to “unlearning”
- Performances that feature historical or fictional exemplars of character and their virtues and vices
- Resource drives that address challenges associated with sustainability, such as over-consumption and over-indulgence
- Speaker panels that allow students to question or critique issues of morality and virtue and what constitutes a “good” life or organization
- Opportunities that allow students to practice humility, intellectual courage, and curiosity when being interviewed by a potential employer

## Eligibility

Full-time faculty and staff

## Application

Please upload the following in one .docx or .pdf file via this [Qualtrics survey](#) by September 16, 2024.

Cover Page (1 page)

- Name(s) of project lead and any co-leads, affiliations, and email addresses
- Project title
- 100-200 word project abstract

Project Summary (2 pages max, single-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman font)

- Succinct description of the proposed project, including its connection to student character exploration
- Motivation and/or need for the proposed project
- Specific context, including identification of student population(s) and any others who will be impacted by the proposed project
- Likely impact of proposed project in terms of advancing the 4D Experience
- Likely transferability, adoption, and/or scaling of the project to engage other campus partners and/or reach additional students
- Timeline of proposed project activities
- Detailed breakdown of and justification for how funds (up to \$1,000) will be used
- Plans for and modes of assessment, including how character development will be measured or tracked

## Grant Timeline

- Applications are due via [Qualtrics survey](#) on September 16<sup>th</sup>
- Recipients will be selected and notified by the end of September

## Selection Criteria

**Impact:** project's potential to impact student character development and benefit the vitality of their 4D Experience. The project's potential to make meaningful contributions to infusing and amplifying 4D within the respective curricular and/or co-curricular space.

**Integrative or Collaborative Design:** project demonstrates an attempt to make connections or foster collaborations across units or campus partners

**Manageability of Timeline:** project is doable within the timeframe of the 2024-25 academic year

**Scalability:** project has the potential to be replicated or scaled in some way, whether through future adoption by campus partners or expansion within one's unit, department, or division

**Expansion of 4D Partnerships:** project applicant(s) have not received previous Infusion Grant funding and/or the project expands partnerships with those new to 4D.

## Grant Recipient Agreements

**Cohort Meetings:** Grant recipients will meet with other infusion grant recipients and/or the 4D Director of Faculty Innovation twice per quarter to reflect, share feedback, and provide support related to project activities, assessment, and development.

**4D Symposium Presentation:** Grant recipients will present their projects at the 4D Symposium scheduled for May 8-9, 2025.

**Final Project Report:** Grant recipients will complete a final project report by the beginning of June 2025 that includes a description of completed project activities, overview of assessment outcomes, and discussion of how those outcomes will inform next steps.

### **Project Funds Disbursement**

- Grant recipients will be asked to work with their unit budget officers to set up a multi-year (designated) fund where the grant money will be transferred. Those collaborating with colleagues in a different unit will be asked to designate one office to receive the funds.
- If funding remains after June 2025, recipients will be asked to detail a timeline for their use and to work with the 4D Director of Faculty Innovation to develop a plan for completion of the project.

### **Questions?**

Contact Dr. Erin Willer, 4D Director of Faculty Innovation, [erin.willer@du.edu](mailto:erin.willer@du.edu)