

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jeannette Rankin Foundation Awarded Grant as Partner with Bay Path University from Strada Education Network to Connect Adult Women with In-Demand Jobs

Bay Path University is among seven national competition winners receiving combined \$8 million to collaborate across communities to build new education-to-employment pathways

Athens, GA, February 11, 2019— Bay Path University was named as a winner of a philanthropic funding contest by national nonprofit Strada Education Network on February 5, 2019. Bay Path University was awarded \$1,582,600 for a three-year project titled “Closing the Gaps: Building Pathways for Adult Women in a Technology-Driven Workforce.”

The Jeannette Rankin Foundation (JRF) is one of eight partners in the project and is receiving \$80,000 over the course of three years for scholarships for Bay Path students. JRF played a key role in connecting Bay Path University to Strada. This program will represent a continued partnership between JRF and Bay Path University on a larger scale. This will be the third year JRF has worked to provide scholarships specifically to female students of Bay Path University. This is the first, national multi partner grant JRF is involved in.

Implemented through The American Women’s College of Bay Path University, the project will address a critical national need for developing a digitally fluent workforce - applicable not only in cybersecurity and the tech sector but in other fields as well - that is well-prepared with foundational 21st Century skills in digital technologies, coding, data science, systems thinking and the ability to apply these skills across different problems, settings and industries.

“No one sector can close skill and equity gaps, alone. All of the recipients share our commitment to engaging with an ecosystem of educators, community organizations and employers to help individuals bridge the divide between education and economic opportunity,” said William D. Hansen, president and CEO of Strada Education Network. “We’re excited to support Bay Path University. They’re listening to education consumers as well as employers, and designing solutions that are relevant to the real-world challenges -- and opportunities -- today’s students face.”

Bay Path University was selected from hundreds of applicants in the “[innovative solutions in education-to-employment](#)” competition Strada Education Network announced in 2018, which

prioritized investment in working adults required to upskill as the labor market shifts and “disconnected youth,” aged 18 to 24 years old, who are neither working nor in school.

“The advancement of women is central to Bay Path University’s mission as a women’s university,” states Amanda Gould, Chief Administrative Officer at The American Women’s College. “Through The American Women’s College, our strategic priority has been to scale up our capacity to reach more adult women through high quality online learning which in turn will help them achieve career-focused degrees and credentials. The Strada Education Network grant will help us strengthen this pipeline and address a critical national need to prepare a digitally fluent workforce that is fully inclusive of women and minorities.”

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About Jeannette Rankin Foundation

For more than 40 years the Jeannette Rankin Women’s Scholarship Fund has been empowering women through education. JRF honors the legacy of an American woman of incredible spirit and determination Jeannette Rankin, the first woman to be elected to the United States Congress in 1916. Jeannette was a proponent of women’s rights and devoted her life to help women and children and stand up for social justice. When Jeannette died in 1973 at the age of 92, she bequeathed part of her Georgia estate to help mature, unemployed women workers, providing the seed money to create the Jeannette Rankin Foundation, a nonprofit scholarship fund. A college education can mean the difference between making a living and making a life. The women who receive these scholarships have gone on to do amazing work and 47 % of the women were the first in their family to attend college. JRF continues to empower women of all backgrounds from across the nation to better themselves and our world. The foundation continues to advocate for social justice and carries on the legacy of Jeannette Rankin.

About Bay Path University

Bay Path University was founded in 1897. With locations in Longmeadow (main), East Longmeadow (Philip H. Ryan Health Science Center), Springfield (MA), Sturbridge (MA), and Concord (MA), Bay Path’s innovative program offerings include traditional undergraduate degrees for women, The American Women’s College on-ground and online, the first all-women, all-online accredited bachelor’s degree programs in the country; over 25 graduate programs for women and men; and Strategic Alliances, offering professional development courses for individuals and organizations. Bay Path’s goal is to give students confidence in the fundamentals of their chosen field, the curiosity to question the ordinary, the leadership to show initiative, and the desire to make a difference.

About Strada Education Network

Strada Education Network® is a national nonprofit dedicated to improving lives by catalyzing more direct and promising pathways between education and employment. The Network engages partners across education, nonprofits, business and government to focus relentlessly on students’ success throughout all phases of their working lives. Together, they address critical

college to career challenges through strategic philanthropy, research and insights, and mission-aligned affiliates — all focused on advancing the universal right to realized potential called Completion With a Purpose®. Learn more at StradaEducation.org.

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