



Mabel and Berger Erickson Endowed Scholarship

History: Mabel and Berger Erikson came to Thunderbird at its inception in 1946 and dedicated more than five decades to the School as staff members. Mr. Berger Erickson, an Executive Vice President, was known as “Mr. Thunderbird” and his wife Mabel held a number of positions while at Thunderbird, such as Registrar, Director of Placement, and Director of Alumni Relations. Because they had no children of their own, the Thunderbird students became their children and in 1987, the Erickson’s established this student scholarship fund. Their generosity has supported many students in their pursuit of academic excellence at Thunderbird.

Criteria: Unrestricted. Currently used for Continuing Student Grants. Continuing Student Grants are awarded only to continuing students with a 3.6 GPA or better with campus and/or community leadership and service while attending Thunderbird.

In accordance with the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA), which affects endowments, the Investment Committee of the Thunderbird Board of Trustees has reviewed and revised Thunderbird's Investment Policy. Going forward, the annual spending amount for each donor-restricted endowment fund will be in the range of 0%-6% of the current endowment value. The investment goal is to achieve at least an 8% average annual total return on all donor-restricted endowment funds over the long term recognizing that the Investment Plan may at times target an annual total return of less than 8%.

In accordance with UPMIFA, each year the following factors will be taken into account in making a determination to appropriate or accumulate donor-restricted endowment funds.

1. The duration and preservation of the fund
2. The mission of the School and the purpose of each donor-restricted endowment fund
3. General economic conditions
4. The possible effect of deflation and inflation
5. The expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments
6. Other resources of the School
7. The investment policies of the School