$793,485
NEH Funding at Vanderbilt, from FY 2013 to FY 2018

$6.16 MILLION
NEH Funding Given to TN, from FY 2013 to FY 2018

$480,000
NEH Challenge Grant awarded to Vanderbilt in 1989

$1.9 MILLION
Leveraged by Vanderbilt’s 1989 Challenge Grant

The Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities

In 1989, Vanderbilt’s Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities was awarded a $480,000 Challenge Grant from NEH to help establish a permanent endowment for the center. The grant had to be matched 4:1 with funds from the private sector, which helped leverage an additional $1.9 million. This award signifies the nationally recognized achievements of the center and helps ensure its long-term future. The center facilitates interdisciplinary research in the humanities and social sciences by hosting annual faculty fellows, including one visiting faculty member from outside of the university. It also has an annual graduate fellowship program. The center often collaborates with partners from across the campus and Nashville to provide opportunities for humanistic excellence. The 2018-2019 academic year is a landmark year for the center as it celebrates its 30th year of operation.

Vanderbilt slavery archive to reach wider audience through data hub

A digital archive of the oldest records for Africans in the Americas directed by a Vanderbilt history professor and hosted at Vanderbilt’s Jean and Alexander Heard Library will join a new online data hub. This will enable researchers and the public to access and analyze millions of pieces of data from collections across eight institutions, including Vanderbilt. Vanderbilt’s Slave Societies Digital Archive, supported in part by NEH, is the largest digital collection of records for Africans in the Atlantic World, approaching 600,000 records from the U.S., the Caribbean region, and Latin America. These records date from the 16th to the 20th centuries and document the history of between 6 and 8 million individuals. The collection is the most extensive serial record of the history of Africans in the Atlantic World and also includes valuable information on the indigenous, European, and Asian populations who lived alongside them.

The history of the U.S. Social Security number

NEH Summer Stipend Awards advance research that is of value to scholars and general audiences. For example, a history professor at Vanderbilt received funding to support her research on the history of the social security number as well as modern attitudes toward citizenship, governance, and civic feeling. The research will use social security numbers to illustrate how Americans have envisioned the modern federal government and their evolving relationship to it. The manuscript is currently entitled Nine Digits: A Biography of a Number and a Nation.
Developing a digital platform for virtual archaeological survey

An anthropology professor and director of Vanderbilt's Spacial Analysis Research Laboratory (SARL) has received a grant from the American Council of Learned Societies to develop a digital platform that promises to greatly expand our understanding of Andean culture. A prototype of the project was developed with a NEH startup grant, as well as support from the Vanderbilt Center for Digital Humanities. The database will collate and connect satellite imagery from a variety of sources and photos from historic aerial surveys to build a detailed inventory of archaeological remains in the Andes. This project will provide immersive learning and research opportunities for students, and will connect to a number of the university’s Trans-Institutional Programs. It will enable archaeologists to move past traditional piecemeal approaches and toward a view of inter-regional scale networks of interaction in the Andes, while serving as a repository for archaeological settlement pattern data.

"... I do not merely believe in the abstract value of the humanities. Rather, like my NEH colleagues, I burn for the humanities—in my country, in my community, in my home. ... Ever since I joined the great endeavor of this agency, I wish what I wished before—but harder."

-Jon Parrish Peede
Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities and Vanderbilt alumnus (BS’91)

For more information, please contact Vanderbilt’s Office of Federal Relations:
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