$1 million NSF grant will help second- and third-year students persist to graduation

Attracting talented students into Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields does little good if financial strains derail a student’s plans mid-way to graduation.

A new $1 million grant to the Michigan State University Colleges of Engineering and Education will help students persist through the financial and academic challenges facing them. Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), eligible MSU engineering students will receive $8,000 per year in tuition and targeted support services during their second and third years of college.
As directors of first-year engineering programs, Walton and Caldwell are leading recruitment efforts to identify candidates for SEE support. The first stipends will be awarded in the 2017-18 academic year. In total, SEE will support four cohorts of nine students each.

Caldwell said the SEE selection process will give talented but underprepared students an opportunity to compete on a more even footing with peers who had stronger K-12 support structures.

“Our focus is to provide activities that enhance retention and graduation rates,” Caldwell added. “This program will allow us to collect data, form strategies, and help our college and other colleges of engineering.”

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