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[Home](#)

[From the Dean](#)

[Top Stories](#)

[College News](#)

[Development](#)

[News Shorts](#)

[Outreach Global](#)

[Outreach Memphis](#)

[Profiles in Excellence](#)

[Financial Support](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Dean's Staff](#)
[Newsletter Staff](#)
[Corrections](#)

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Hooks Institute Awarded \$1 Million

In February, the Hooks Institute for Social Change received a congressional award of \$1 million through the Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education. This award comes on the heels of an \$835,000 congressional award that the Institute received last year. According to Dr. Doug Imig, director of the Hooks Institute, "This money will provide the much needed resources to grow the existing programs and develop new ones that will reach out to the community, both locally and nationally."

The money that the Institute received last year was essential for supporting its current agenda, but the amount fell short of what the Institute needed to establish a permanent operating budget, which is a primary goal of the Institute. "An endowment would ensure the success and longevity of the Institute's work," states Imig, "and that is what we are going to do with the \$1 million it received this year." According to Imig, the establishment of an endowment frees the Institute to use last year's award to do several things: the Institute will focus on strengthening existing programs, such as the Archives Project; it will support The U of M library with sufficient funds to complete the preliminary processing of Dr. Hooks's papers; and it will reach out more broadly to the campus community by cosponsoring events that support and expand its interdisciplinary agenda.

Most importantly, as Imig states, "The Institute can now expend resources to cultivate programs that invigorate the national dialogue on the new civil rights agenda of social justice. We can expand our symposia and lecture series, develop other annual programs, and create thematically linked curriculum components for students, teachers, and scholars."

While this infusion of funding has created many opportunities for the Hooks Institute, Imig recognizes the importance of prudence in advancing the Institute's goals. "Fundamentally, these congressional awards are a testament to the life work of Dr. Hooks, and [to] the importance of carrying on his legacy," adds Imig, "which means that we have an obligation to honor that legacy by directing programs that remain true to the mission and course that Dr. Hooks has set."

For more information on the Hooks Institute and its programs, see its website at <http://benhooks.memphis.edu>.

[Top of Page](#)

[Home](#) | [From the Dean](#) | [College News](#) | [Development](#) | [New Faculty](#)
[News Shorts](#) | [Outreach Global](#) | [Outreach Memphis](#) | [Profiles in Excellence](#)
[Financial Support](#) | [Dean's Staff](#) | [Newsletter Staff](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Back Issues](#)

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