Naropa University to receive $250,000 from Frederick P. Lenz Foundation grant

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Boulder, Colorado-based Naropa University announced this morning that it has received a $250,000 grant from the Frederick P. Lenz Foundation for American Buddhism, to benefit “current and future Naropa scholars of American Buddhism.”

Naropa’s statement:

“The Frederick P. Lenz Foundation for American Buddhism has announced a significant grant commitment to Naropa University over the next six years in the amount of $250,000. Beginning in 2012, the Foundation will provide funding for three programs: The Lenz Merit Scholarship Grant, The Lenz Distinguished Lecturer, and the Lenz Fellowship. Naropa University and the Frederick P. Lenz Foundation have enjoyed a strong relationship since 2004.
“Naropa University is delighted that the Frederick P. Lenz Foundation for American Buddhism has generously agreed to continue its support and wonderful collaboration,’ says Charles G. Lief, President of Naropa University. ‘This multi-year grant of more than $250,000 will support religious studies graduate students, fellows integrating the arts and social sciences with contemplative practice and Buddhist scholarship, and to allow Naropa to invite world class lecturers to campus to explore the evolution of American Buddhism. For almost 40 years Naropa has been at the forefront in bringing contemplative practice to the classroom and offering tools to its graduates allowing them make a positive and powerful difference in the world. This very significant grant will greatly help Naropa University in maintaining its leadership role.’

“‘The Lenz Foundation is proud of our long and fruitful association with Naropa University,’ states Norman S. Oberstein, Chairman of the Board for the Frederick P. Lenz Foundation. ‘We look forward to our continued collaboration with Naropa to advance American Buddhism. We are confident that our new grant funds in combination with the income from our previously granted endowment fund will be put to excellent and productive use for the three Naropa programs we sponsor. With this latest grant commitment, our financial support of Naropa will have exceeded $1,000,000—grant money well spent.’

“The Lenz Foundation Merit Scholarship will be awarded annually to two to three full-time Naropa University Master of Divinity or Master of Arts in Religious Studies students who exhibit the potential for making a meaningful contribution to the development of American Buddhism.

“The Lenz Foundation Distinguished Lecturer Program in Buddhist Studies and American Culture and Values will promote diversity of thought and practice at Naropa with distinguished guest speakers drawn from communities, traditions and scholarship related to Buddhism in America that supplement existing university expertise. Past Lenz Lecturers include Joanna Macy, and poet Gary Snyder.
“The Frederick P. Lenz Foundation Residential Fellowship for Buddhist Studies and American Culture and Values will provide for one residential fellow per academic year with an opportunity to affiliate with Naropa University during a sabbatical or other professional leave. The Fellowship supports the development of an artistic, social action, curriculum development, or other research project on some aspect of Buddhism’s contributions to American education and society.

“The Frederick P. Lenz Foundation for American Buddhism is dedicated to promoting the benefits of Zen Buddhism, meditation, yoga and related Buddhist practices as a pathway to self-realization and the harmonious blending of the material and spiritual in contemporary American society. The Foundation encourages the study and practice of these disciplines so that Americans with a Western mind set may come to appreciate these ancient gifts of Eastern thought, and utilize them in a way that is relevant to American culture and values.

“Naropa University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Naropa University is a private, nonprofit, nonsectarian liberal arts institution dedicated to advancing contemplative education. This approach to learning integrates the best of Eastern and Western educational traditions, helping students know themselves more deeply and engage constructively with others. The university comprises a four-year undergraduate college and graduate programs in the arts, education, environmental leadership, psychology and religious studies.”