

# HOW ONE DENOMINATION IS ADDRESSING ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

THE STEWARDS OF ABUNDANCE PROJECT IN THE  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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# HOW ONE DENOMINATION IS ADDRESSING ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

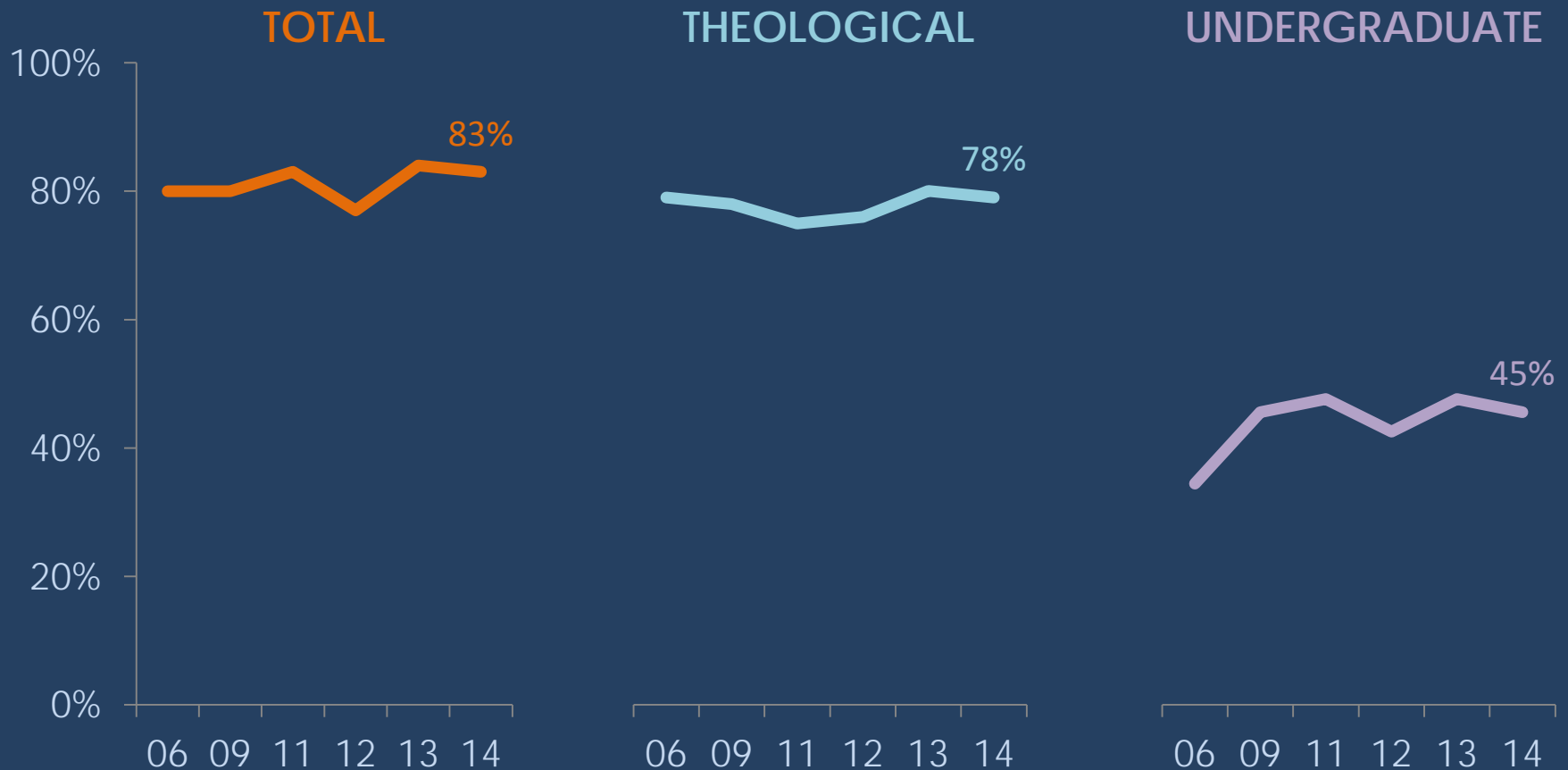
EXTENT OF EDUCATIONAL DEBT

EFFECTS OF EDUCATIONAL DEBT

EFFORTS TO REDUCE EDUCATIONAL DEBT

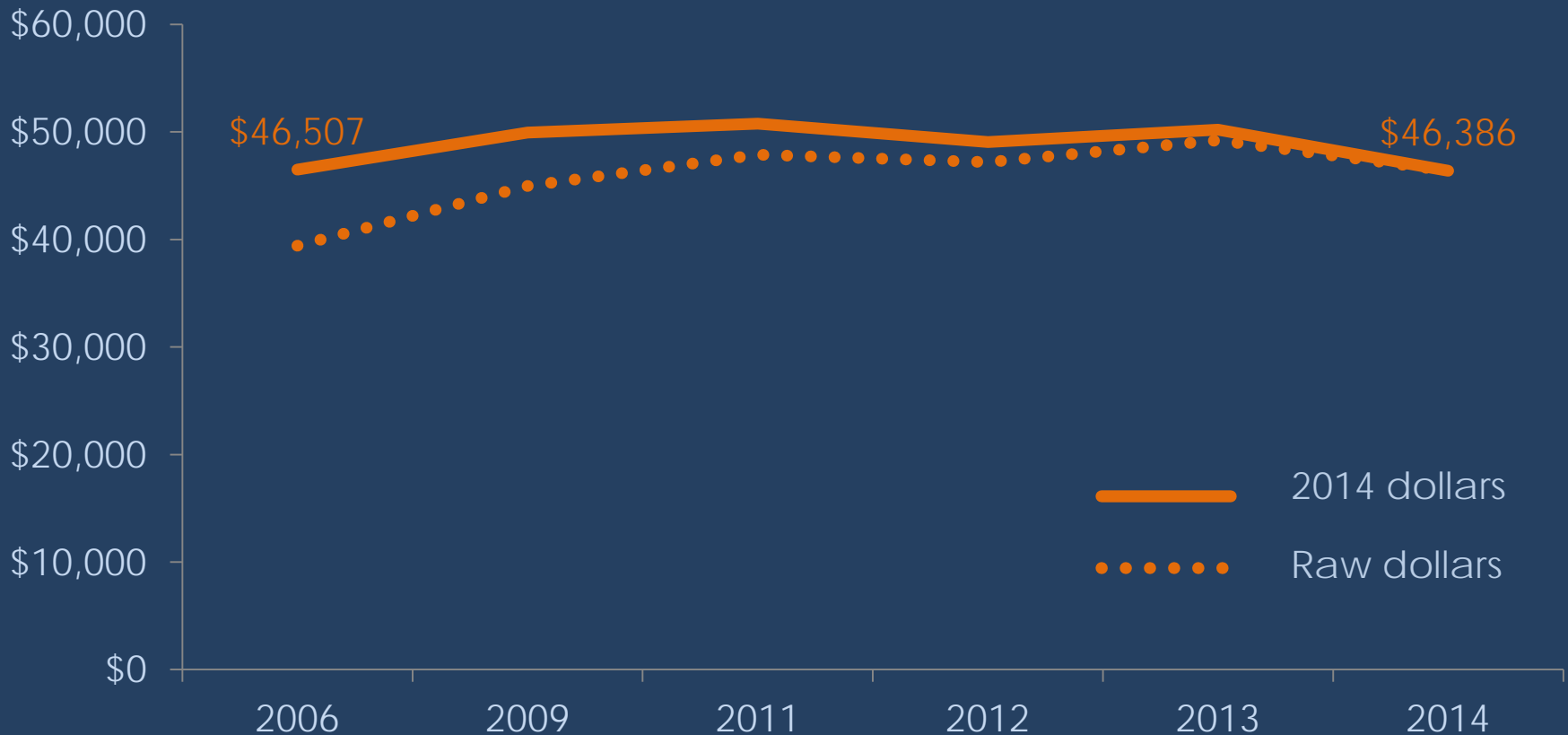
EVALUATION OF STEWARDS OF ABUNDANCE

# RECENT TRENDS IN INDEBTEDNESS



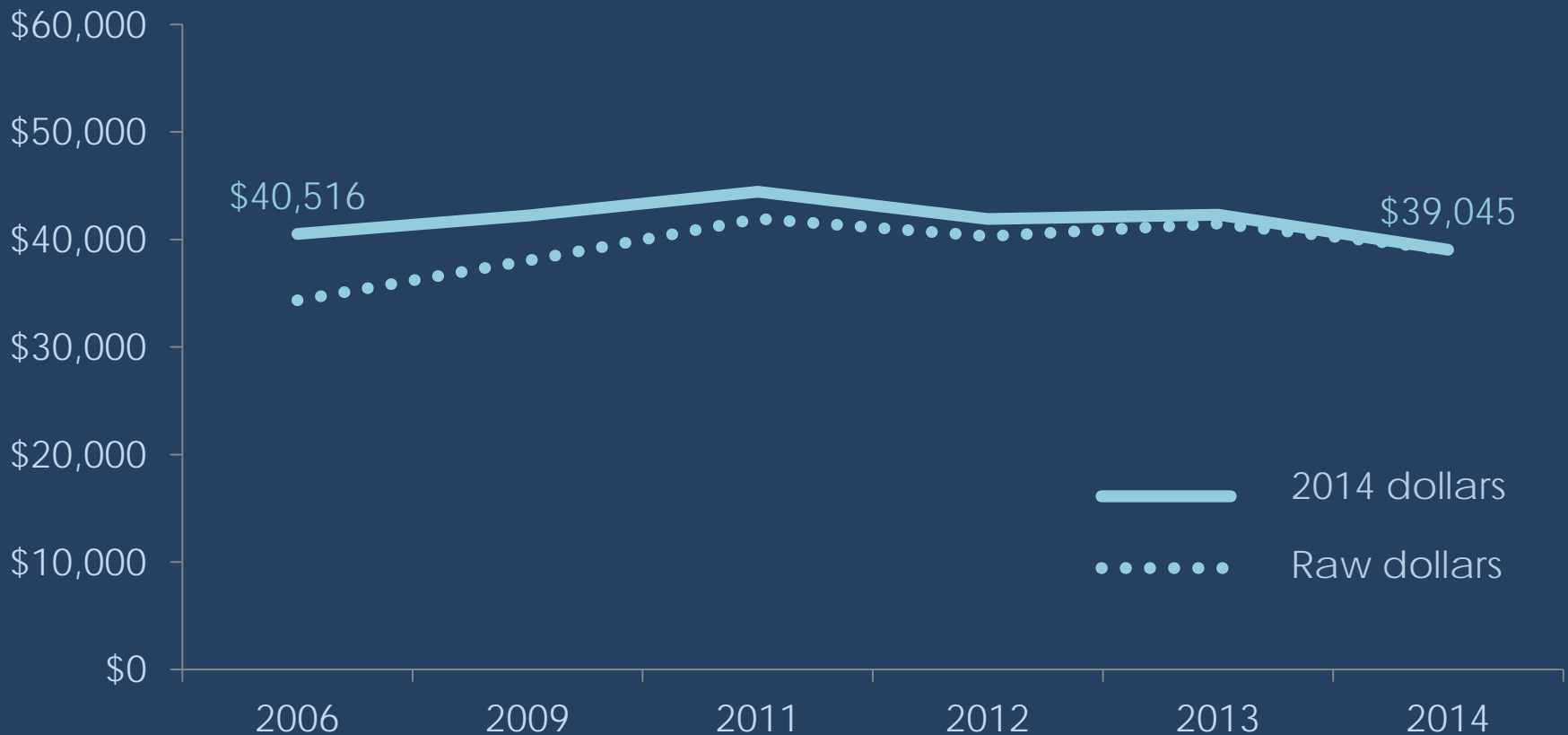
Trends in the percent of indebted ELCA M.Div. graduates have generally remained flat. The most notable increase occurred between 2006 and 2009 in the percent carrying undergraduate debt.

# RECENT TRENDS IN TOTAL EDUCATIONAL DEBT



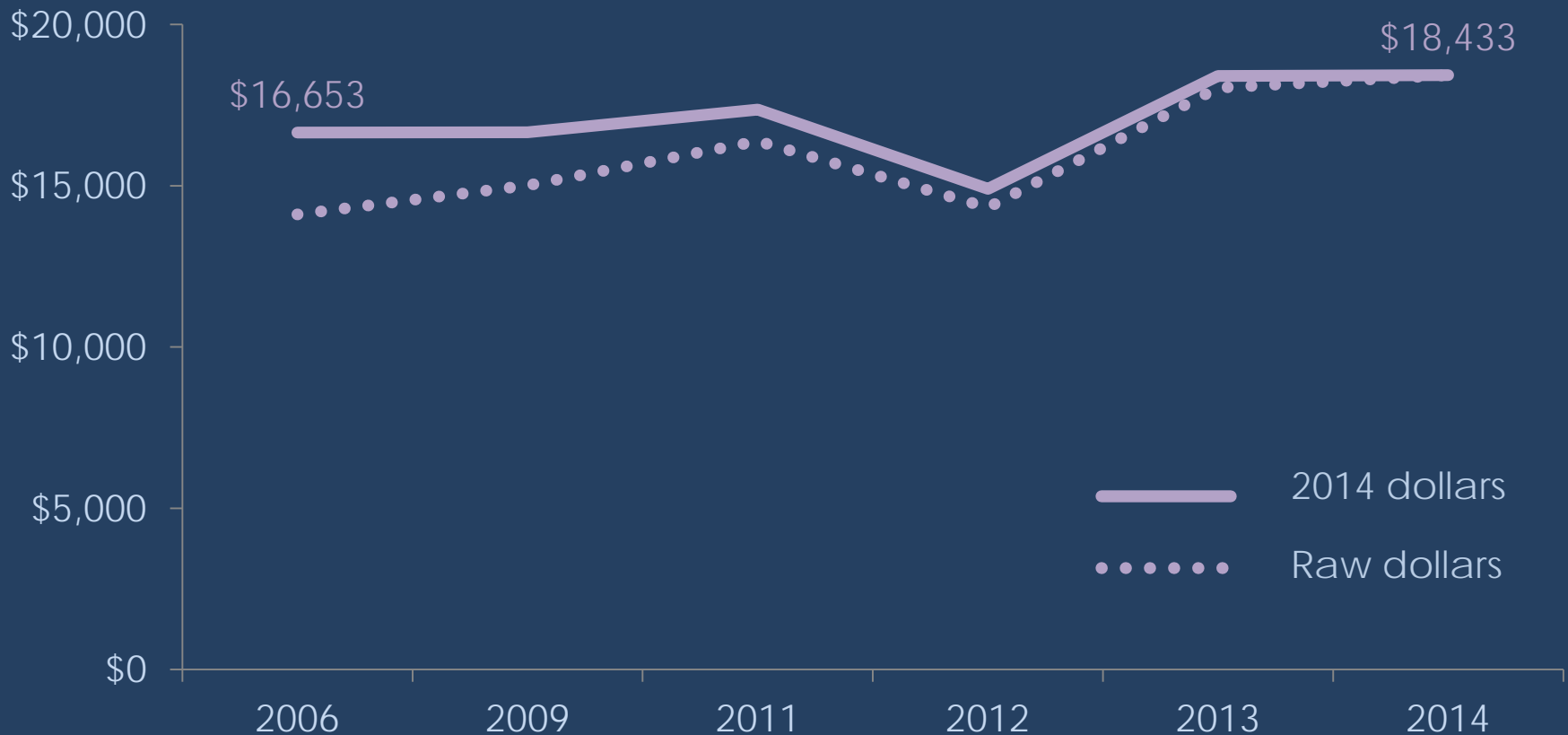
Average total educational debt among borrowing graduates in 2014 was the lowest it had been since 2006, after controlling for inflation.

# RECENT TRENDS IN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION DEBT



Average theological education debt among borrowing graduates has been relatively flat. In 2014, it was the lowest it had been since 2006, after controlling for inflation.

# RECENT TRENDS IN UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION DEBT



Average undergraduate education debt among borrowing graduates has increased 11 percent since 2006, after controlling for inflation, about one percent annually.

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M.Div. graduates with educational debt accepted first calls more quickly than those without debt.

|             |                  |                 |  |   |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------|--|---|
| <b>2006</b> | <b>May</b>       | <b>June</b>     | <b>July</b>  | <b>August</b>   |
|             | <b>September</b> | <b>October</b>  | <b>November</b><br> | <b>December</b>   |
| <b>2007</b> | <b>January</b>   | <b>February</b> | <b>March</b>   | <b>April</b><br> |

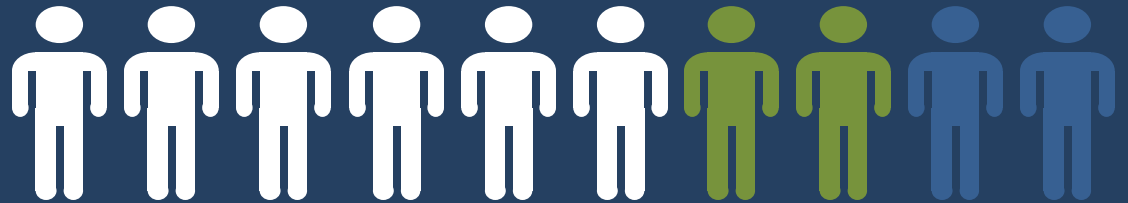


Educational debt impacts the likelihood and speed at which a pastor seeks a second call.

Educational debt  
above \$60K



No educational debt



 = First call    = Second call    = Other

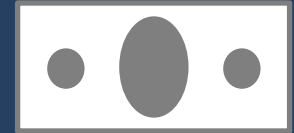
Educational debt negatively impacts financial satisfaction.



SAVINGS



DEBT



COMPENSATION

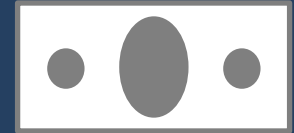
Concern about educational debt negatively impacts satisfaction with finances...



SAVINGS



DEBT



COMPENSATION

... as well as personal relationships, health and spiritual well-being.



PERSONAL  
RELATIONSHIPS



HEALTH

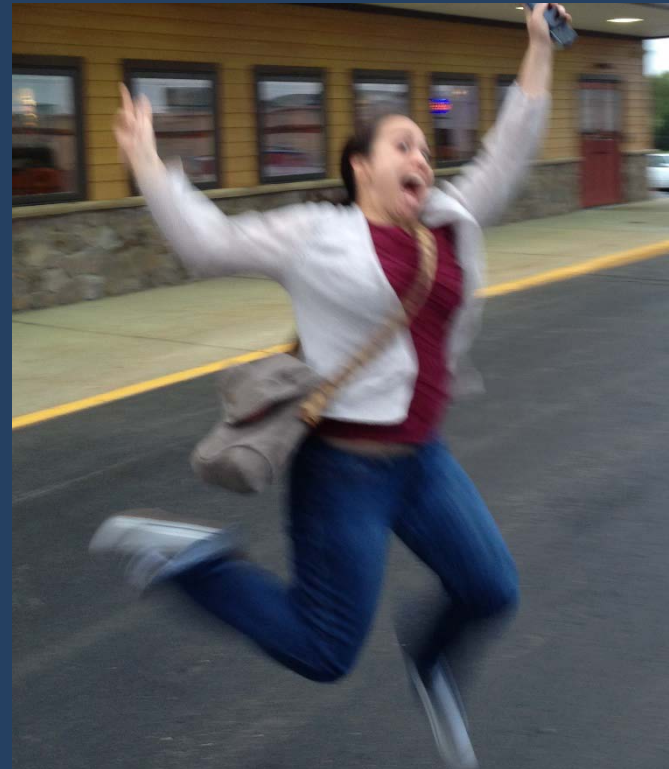


SPIRITUAL  
WELL-BEING

Pastors with high levels of debt may be less likely to take actions which would put their call at risk.



Concern about educational debt impacts the congregation's perspective of a pastor's leadership characteristics... as well as congregational vitality.



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# EFFORTS TO REDUCE EDUCATIONAL DEBT

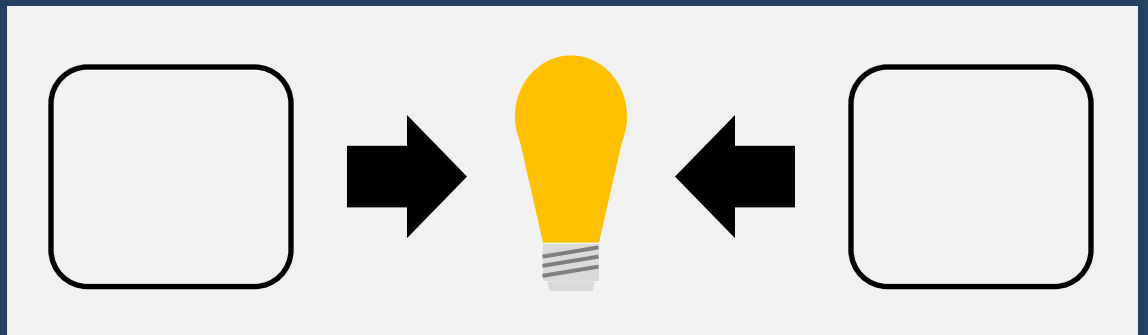
FINANCIAL  
EDUCATION



ADVOCACY



STRATEGIC  
SCHOLARSHIPS



# FINANCIAL EDUCATION



# FINANCIAL COACHING

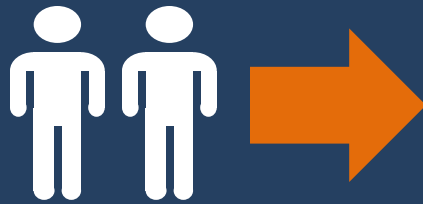


# FINANCIAL WELLNESS SEMINARS/ WORKSHOPS

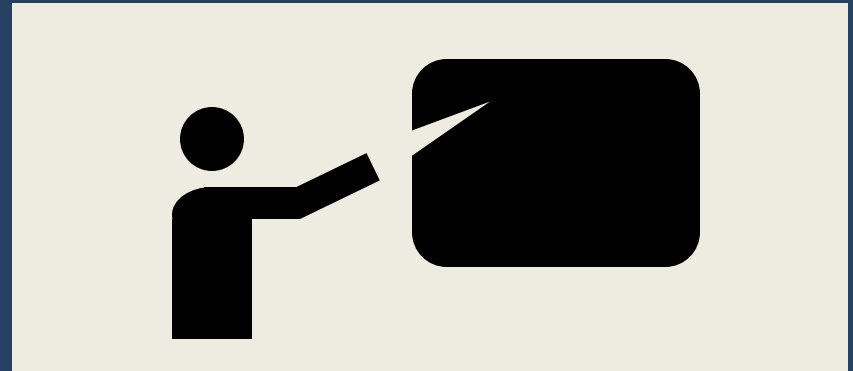




# ADVOCACY



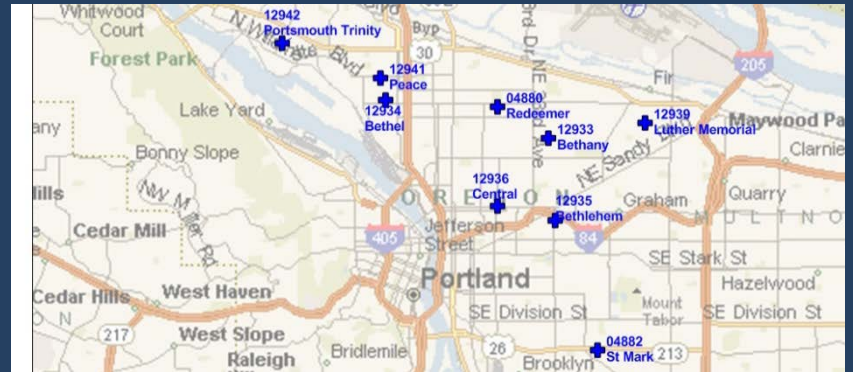
CAMPUS VISITS



TRAINING

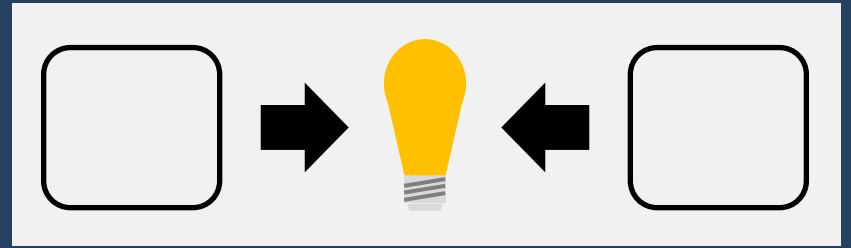


SENDING VISITORS



REGIONAL ADVOCACY

# STRATEGIC SCHOLARSHIPS



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# FUTURE RESEARCH AND QUESTIONS