

## **Shaping the Campaign for Ukrainian Studies Programs**

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The Ukrainian Studies Fund, a New York State-incorporated public charity organized in 1958, has successfully established a Ukrainian studies program at Harvard University (3 professorships, a research institute, summer school program, library support), expanded the financial base of the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University and funded research and publication projects in Ukraine that produce monographs and finding aids for historical and archival studies. The broad community support assembled over the decades that backed these initiatives remains unprecedented. University programs customarily rely on a single benefactor to fund a program. In the Ukrainian case, the concerted effort of 12,000 donors financed the programs. This achievement relied on innovations in fundraising introduced in the Ukrainian-American community by the Ukrainian Studies Fund in the 1960s: scholarship as a means to preserve and develop the Ukrainian idea in the face of Soviet repression and Russification; programs that were based at leading US universities; creation of endowed funds to guarantee stable long-term support for the programs; outreach to bring the Ukrainian perspective to the US academic and general audiences. The durability of these concepts has been challenged by inevitable events such as the change of generations among scholars leading the programs, new priorities among the academics, shifts in student interest and enrollments, bloating of program administrative staff, stagnation of initiative. Unforeseen events also called some notions into question: Ukrainian independence in 1991, endowed fund instability during the 2008 financial crisis, the pandemic. Some of the ways these challenges are met will be discussed.