

Brittany Miller

Research Interests:

- Philanthropy, nonprofit management, and leadership issues in museums, higher education, and health care institutions.
- Strategic Planning and Institutional Research
- Philanthropic mechanisms of support, including corporate giving/sponsorship, family giving, foundation grantmaking, and individual philanthropy.

Research Methodologies:

- Historical
- Qualitative
- Quantitative
- Mixed methods.

Tentative Dissertation Title: The Edison Institute and the Philanthropic Leadership of the Ford Family: Developing Sustainable Strategies through Family-led Corporate, Foundation, and Individual Giving, 1925-1980

Primary Advisor: Dr. Gregory Witkowski

Research Statement:

My primary research focuses on issues of philanthropic funding, leadership, strategic planning, and complex relationships between organizations, their boards, and their funders. My current research concentrates on the leadership and philanthropic activity of multiple generations of the Ford family in supporting the Edison Institute (The Henry Ford, Dearborn, Michigan). This research derives from my career in and study of museums, foundations, and other nonprofits that seek to develop sustainable leadership and solutions during times of economic upheaval.

In addition, I am co-authoring a mixed methods study on faculty and staff giving across the Indiana University system as part of an inaugural research collaboration between Indiana University and the Indiana University Foundation. Several of my recent research projects also concentrate on issues of fundraising ethics, donor behavior, and nonprofit governance.

Personal Info:

My research and work bridges the scholarly and practical fields of philanthropy and nonprofit management, as evidenced in my research and work in community-based organizations. I have worked with museums, hospitals, foundations, and universities for nearly ten years, developing vital expertise and discovering needs that are best met through innovative research. With degrees in Philanthropic Studies and Public History, I contribute a broad base of knowledge and skills to the growing field of Philanthropic Studies by contextualizing multi-generational activity of the corporations, families, foundations, and individuals who give to America's ever-evolving nonprofit institutions.