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**DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES LARGEST GIFT IN HISTORY
FROM M.E. DAVENPORT FOUNDATION**

Gift of \$5.5 million to endowment fund to support innovations in academics and learning

Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 14, 2015 – Davenport University announced it has received a gift to its endowment fund of \$5.5 million over the next four years from the M.E. Davenport Foundation. It is the single largest gift in the University’s history and brings historical giving to Davenport University by the independent, family foundation to more than \$15.4 million.

“This is an extraordinary gift from the foundation and a tremendous boost for our ‘Investing in the Vision’ Campaign,” said Dr. Richard Pappas, President of Davenport University. “We have now received commitments for more than \$18 million toward our \$25 million goal. This investment by the Foundation will have a lasting impact on the University’s ability to develop innovative new programs.”

“Throughout its existence the M.E. Davenport has supported Davenport University as well as other community initiatives. With this gift, we are seeking to reflect the shared origins and values of both the Foundation and the University,” said Peggy Mocerri, immediate Past President of the Foundation and a granddaughter of the foundation’s namesake. “The purpose of the endowment is to regenerate, in an enduring way, M.E. Davenport’s founding motto: Make a Living, Make a Life, Make a Contribution.”

The perpetual innovation fund, for which details continue to be developed, will support academic and learning-related initiatives not subject to the regular university operating budget. Besides its impact on the University’s current fundraising campaign, the gift also supports work toward the University’s recently announced Vision 2020 long-range plan, in which innovation plays a large part. The timing also anticipates year-long celebrations in 2016 of Davenport University’s 150th Anniversary.

About Davenport University

Founded in 1866, Davenport is a private, non-profit university serving nearly 9,000 students at campuses across Michigan and online. With tuition among the lowest of all private universities in the state, Davenport provides high academic quality, small class sizes, conveniently located campuses, faculty with real-world experience and more than 50 dynamic undergraduate and graduate programs addressing in-demand careers in business, technology, health professions and urban education. More information is available at www.davenport.edu.

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