



Robert and Patricia Switzer
Foundation

ROBERT & PATRICIA
SWITZER
FOUNDATION

Client Case Study

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About Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation

The Robert & Patricia Switzer Foundation identifies and nurtures environmental leaders who have the ability and determination to make a significant impact, and supports initiatives that will have direct and measurable results to improve environmental quality. The foundation accomplishes this by awarding academic fellowships and project grants, sponsoring professional development activities, and fostering a growing network of Switzer Fellows, environmental practitioners, and organizations. The Foundation was founded in 1985.

Previous Grant Process

Our Fellowship process was paper intensive; we received approximately 350 applications each cycle. Each application was 15-30 pages long and we received four copies of each application. Staff would have to enter contact and application information data into an MS-Access database that we would use to track the application and generate correspondence. During the evaluation review process staff would have to sort the applications once again and ship large boxes of applications to reviewers around the country.

Foundant GLM Implementation

The greatest benefit from the implementation of Grant Lifecycle Manager (GLM) is the elimination of handling the huge volume of paper. All of our key communications with applicants are now online, streamlining our grant process and creating consistency. The ease of assigning reviewers and allowing them to access the applications assigned to them online through a secure login has made for a much more efficient grant cycle. While the Grant Lifecycle Manager (GLM) wasn't designed to handle fellowship applications we found it to be a flexible tool and readily adaptable to our needs.

Advantages of GLM

- Elimination of handling large amounts of paper
- Better and more timely communication with applicants
- Data export capabilities for improved reporting
- Flexibility for all users provided by the Grant Lifecycle Manager (GLM) solution

Welcome Surprise

We were concerned that the reviewers would not like working online to evaluate applications. Early in the process several had voiced the opinion that they would have to print out all the documents as it was too much reading to do online. This proved unwarranted as we have received rave reviews from the evaluators. They find it necessary to print only the top picks and they like the PDF-print feature which converts the application and attached documents into a single PDF file which they may download to their laptop. Being able to bring the evaluators into the process early with the "demo" site as we were developing the process was a real boon to working out the kinks before going live on a production site.