



**HUSSMAN SCHOOL
OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA**

ABIDE Committee
Carroll Hall, CB 3365,
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABIDE COMMITTEE'S HEEL PRINT ON FASHION

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — As the 2024 ABIDE Grant application deadline approaches, let's look at the resounding success stories of the 2023 recipients.

In 2023, the ABIDE Committee proudly awarded the coveted Student Organization DEI Event Fund to the Xpression Club, a dynamic platform dedicated to celebrating individuality through fashion. The club applied the ABIDE funding to host an event with a local fashion photographer; this illuminated creativity and emphasized the importance of diversity in the fashion industry.

Dana McMahan is a design specialist and faculty advisor for Xpression. She exemplifies the transformative influence ABIDE Grant had on the project. "The Xpression students designed the event to have multiple touchpoints," said McMahan. "Their visitor will do a photo technique workshop, a networking session, and help advise on a live Xpression Shoot."

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The student organization's achievements underscores the potential of ABIDE grants to continue propelling innovative initiatives that foster a culture of diversity, inclusion and equity within the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media.

Now that we are in the 2024 application period, faculty, students and staff are encouraged to draw inspiration from Xpression's experience and consider how their projects can contribute to the UNC-Chapel Hill Community. "The funding is important because it will help our group further explore the elements of diversity in fashion," said Nicholas Fantauzzi, a co-founder of Xpression.

The ABIDE grant holds immense promise for projects that embody the spirit of authenticity and inclusivity. By reflecting on the accomplishments of past recipients, we aim to motivate and empower individuals to seize this opportunity.

About ABIDE

The Access, Belonging, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Committee is a program within the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) plan of action. Established over a decade ago and based at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, ABIDE has evolved to address a broader spectrum of issues, emphasizing a profound sense of belonging and community. For more information, visit UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media or contact Lois Boynton, Ph.D.

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