"GuideStar for Education is an indispensable teaching tool. The students learn from the raw material in the 990’s, helpfully complemented by the summaries and pie charts.” —Char Mollison, Faculty and Program Coordinator

CHALLENGE:
Char Mollison, Faculty and Program Coordinator at Johns Hopkins University, has taught graduate courses in nonprofit studies for over 14 years. Over time, she noticed that most of her students were eager to learn and discuss the mission and programs of different nonprofits, but not as interested in researching the financial data.

GUIDESTAR SOLUTION:
Ms. Mollison tried different techniques to make her students comfortable with looking at nonprofit numbers. She brought in guest speakers who were CPAs and comptrollers, but when Ms. Mollison learned about GuideStar for Education, she experimented with subscriptions for the students.

Ms. Mollison currently uses GuideStar’s reports to determine trends and keep up with the field. She also uses GuideStar as a tool to help her research nonprofits for her personal giving.

SUCCESS:
Ms. Mollison found that the summaries and pie charts GuideStar offers gave her students an understanding of how financial data could be used. She also found that, when she required them to look at the 990s of the organizations they were studying, even the financially phobic always managed to find something to say that was valid, even if it was just an overall revenue trend. This, in turn gave her students confidence. To this day, Char Mollison is a dedicated user of GuideStar in her classes.