

## Mellon Graduate Fellows pursue certificate in community-engaged scholarship

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Fellows of the Mellon Graduate Program in Engaged Scholarship were honored at a Dec. 6 reception marking the program's launch as well as the new graduate certificate in community-engaged scholarship. From left: program manager James Garrett; fellows Kirsty Escalante, Taofeeq Adebayo and Jenn Miller Scarnato; associate administrative professor and program director Ryan McBride; and fellow Ari King. (Photograph by Gigsy)

**Tulane University's inaugural cohort of 12 fellows of the [Mellon Graduate Program in Community-Engaged Scholarship](#) recently capped off their first semester of work in the humanities or humanistic social sciences with a focus on community-engaged scholarship.**

**The fellows will be the first to earn Tulane's new graduate certificate in community-engaged scholarship.**

**Last year the [Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#) awarded Tulane \$1.5 million to launch and support the certificate, an initiative of the [Office of the Provost](#) and the [School of Liberal Arts](#) in collaboration with the [Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching](#) and the [Center for Public Service](#).**

**"I had this dream to make science available in local languages, starting with my own language, Yoruba," said Mellon Fellow Taofeeq Adebayo, a linguistics doctoral student from Nigeria. "What I hope to do is translate science textbooks for seventh-graders or eighth-graders and then go to schools to teach those kids in the local languages so that it can complement the instruction they receive in English."**

**Fellows have the flexibility to pursue individual ideas within a common framework.**

**"We are reading a lot of the same theory, and we're having conversations, so they're grounded by a program that is in some ways set. But they're all taking it in their own directions," said program director Ryan McBride.**

**"[The Mellon program has] provided me with a strong network of people ... to help me along with my own ideas," said archaeologist Kirsty Escalante, who through the Department of Anthropology studies Mayan culture in Mexico and Guatemala.**

**Fellows are also working with a faculty steering committee to develop a two-year program structure for future cohorts that also includes four faculty and four community partners.**

**Ari King, an urban studies doctoral student, said having support from Mellon allows her to frame herself "as a scholar who's committed to community-engaged research, and I think a lot of us feel that way."**

**Applications for the next cohort of graduate students, faculty and community partners will be accepted this spring.**

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