

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 14, 2018

CSULB Receives \$442,000 Grant to prepare Students for Doctoral Degrees in Humanities

California State University, Long Beach was awarded a subgrant of \$442,000 from the California State University Foundation to support the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship program as part of a \$2,211,000 award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. CSULB is part of a MMUF consortium with four sister campuses: Dominguez Hills, Fullerton, Los Angeles and San Bernardino.

President Jane Close Conoley stated, “As a Hispanic Serving Institution serving over 37,000 students a year CSULB is a diverse, student-centered, globally engaged public university committed to providing highly-valued undergraduate educational opportunities through superior teaching, research, and creative activity for the people of California and the world. Undergraduate research is a priority for our campus and is integral to our strategic plan. We are grateful for the Mellon Foundation’s generous support of CSULB humanities students through the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program.”

The CSULB MMUF program will focus on providing rigorous academic and undergraduate research engagement to support students’ pursuit of doctoral degrees upon completion of their baccalaureate degree as CSULB. The award will allow substantial financial support. MMUF offers CSULB diverse humanities students a stellar undergraduate experience through engagement in the undergraduate research enterprise on our campus and the CSU consortium with opportunities beyond the Los Angeles basin and California. Specifically, MMUF participants will have engagement with faculty, enjoy graduate school preparation and support, and develop a sense of community among emerging scholars across the CSU consortium. The cornerstones of the program are student-faculty partnerships in humanities research that is disseminated widely through academic conferences and publication.

The CSULB MMUF leadership team includes, Dr. Angela M. Locks, the principal investigator, from the Office of Undergraduate Research Services (OURS) and the co-principal investigators College of Liberal Arts Associate Dean Daniel O’Connor and College of the Arts Associate Dean Margaret Black. Dr. Mariah Proctor-Tiffany, College of the Arts faculty member and scholar of the history of medieval and Islamic art, will serve as the Faculty Coordinator and Dr. Elizabeth Nuñez is the Program Coordinator.

The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship prepares our talented and hard-working students to succeed in the humanities by supporting their path through undergraduate education, graduate school, and ultimately full professorships. This fellowship allows students to engage in exciting research while simultaneously removing financial barriers to enable students to devote themselves to their academic training. As MMUF fellows work together in a community of high-achieving humanities students, they receive resources through the Office of Undergraduate Research Services (OURS), the Hispanic Opportunities for Graduate Access and Retention Project (Project HOGAR), and a wide variety of programs in the Division of Student Affairs.

MMUF is a proven program that helps underrepresented students rise to the highest levels in universities across the U.S.

Interested students should plan to attend one of several information sessions that are taking place the week of February 19, 2018. To learn more about MMUF and eligibility, go to: <http://www.csulb.edu/mmuf>

Four CSULB undergraduates will be selected during the Spring 2018 term to be inaugural fellows. All MMUF Fellows will work with a faculty on humanities research projects, participate in a summer research program with other fellows across the CSU consortium, and will continue their research activities during their final two years at CSULB.