

COMMUNITY SCHOLARS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

VIRGINIA TECH, MASTER OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

To encourage diversity in urban and regional planning, the Virginia Tech Master of Urban and Regional Planning Program (MURP) is launching a Community Scholars Fellowship Program in Fall 2021 to financially support selected incoming MURPs from under-represented groups (including African American, Latinx, Pacific Islander, or American Indian) based on academic achievement and promise within the field.

The Community Scholars Fellowship Program was established following the events of the summer of 2020, including protests against police brutality following the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and many others, to strengthen its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Award amounts each academic year will be established by the admissions committee in consultation with fund managers. The fellowship will be funded through contributions from alumni, faculty, students, and outside organizations. Besides the \$4000 financial award, the recipient will be paired with a faculty and/or professional mentor(s), who will help guide their graduate study and professional development during their time in the program, as well as offer support navigating a profession which remains majority-white. Over time, the program will connect the recipient to other professionals within the network to create a multiplier effect, leading to wider impact within and across regions.

UAP has updated a memorandum of understanding with VA APA to work together toward diversity and inclusion goals for the planning profession, including commitments for the Community Scholars Program and recognition of the importance of anti-racism in practice.

For more information about the Community Scholars Fellowship Program, including inquiries about serving as mentors for the program, please contact VT UAP faculty member Theodore Lim (tclim@vt.edu).

Please note: At this point, we are not issuing an open call for applications for the fellowship. Candidates are identified from the pool of incoming MURP students who apply to the program by March 8th, 2021.

