Request for Proposals for:

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship Program

for Alaska Native and Pacific Islander Scholars and Others Committed
to the Advancement of Indigenous Alaskan and Pacific Islander History and Culture

Dates Proposals are due to the Graduate School:

April 1st for the writing year: June 2016 – May 2017
July 1st for the writing year: September 2016 – August 2017
October 1st for the writing year: January 2017 – December 2017

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship is open to students who have completed all of the requirements except their dissertation for a doctoral degree in the humanistic and social sciences (e.g. Psychology, Literature, Alaska Native Languages, History, Anthropology, Indigenous Studies and related applied fields, including Interdisciplinary Programs combining areas of study).

The goal of the Mellon Dissertation Fellowship Program is to assist indigenous and other doctoral students, who are committed to the advancement of Alaska and Pacific Islander indigenous history and culture, in the writing, and submission of the dissertation. Applicants must have completed all of the requirements for a doctoral degree except for the actual writing of the dissertation. Applicants must have completed all required coursework, comprehensive exams and have advanced to candidacy prior to the writing year to be eligible to apply for this fellowship.

THE DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP INCLUDES:

• A stipend of $30,000 for the writing year (normally, the beginning of a semester and ends after 12 months or at graduation whichever comes first) paid out monthly.
• Up to $3000.00 in travel funds to attend professional conference(s), carry out research, meet with other scholars, or other purposes that will foster degree completion or professional development.
• Fellows will have the opportunity to take part in writing workshops.
• Indigenous doctoral students will have peer mentoring and be involved in a seminar group.
• Fellows may choose an additional mentor, outside of the UA or other university system, who is not on their dissertation committee and up to $1000.00/semester may be provided to the mentor.

QUALIFICATIONS AND SELECTION OF FELLOWS

Preliminary eligibility for a Mellon Dissertation Fellowship includes Alaska Native and Pacific Islander scholars (and others committed to the advancement of Alaska or Pacific Islander indigenous history and culture) who have completed all of the requirements for a doctoral degree except the dissertation. Applicants must be UAF students and admitted to a UAF Ph.D. program.

Additionally, preference will be given to those:

1. Who demonstrate exemplary scholarly and leadership ability;
   • Evidence of exemplary academic ability, as indicated by such things as:
     o Successful completion of graduate courses
     o GPA of 3.0 or higher in graduate coursework
     o Active participation in academic seminars/conferences/workshops
     o Completed data gathering for dissertation research
   • Demonstrated ability and potential for success in dissertation writing, as indicated by such things as:
     o Quality of research narrative for fellowship application
     o Previous work and publications in relevant field
     o Strong academic references

2. Whose research addresses issues related to the natural or cultural environment of Alaska or the Pacific Islands;
3. Who have had a history of service and engagement with Alaska or the Pacific Islands Native communities and to society as a whole;
   • Evidence of long term commitment to the advancement of Alaska or the Pacific Islands indigenous history and culture, as indicated by such things as:
     o Lifelong resident of Alaska or the Pacific Islands
     o Prior scholarly contributions around Native themes/issues
     o On-going participation in Native organizations/events
   • Firsthand engagement with Alaska of Pacific Island Native languages and cultures as indicated by such things as;
     o Speaks a Native language
     o Practitioner of local cultural programs
     o Participation in cultural immersion activities/camps/programs

4. Who reside in or whose research requires extended periods of time in Alaska Native communities or the Pacific Islands.

5. Who are competitive in the above preferences in the applicant pool.

TO APPLY:
The application consists of the following three components:

   ● A Narrative: Applicants prepare a narrative of no more than seven pages outlining their research project (including research questions, methodology, and data analysis strategies), its goals and objectives, relevant literature, and the project's contribution to the field. The goal of the narrative will be to place the project in context and outline the theoretical grounding as well as the project's significance.

   ● Letters of Reference: Applications must include two letters of reference supporting their project, including one from a member of his/her graduate committee.

   ● A Timeline: Applicants will be asked to submit a 12-month timeline for completion of the dissertation.

The application items (narrative, 2 letters of recommendation and timeline) must be submitted as one packet to the UAF Graduate School (email to lebender@alaska.edu or sent to the Graduate School, 202 Eielson, 403 Salcha St., PO Box 757560, Fairbanks AK 99775-7560 by the dates above. Individual pieces will not be accepted.

Applications will be evaluated based on the proposed project's originality, connections between research questions and methods, relation to the literature, and proposed contributions and significance to the field. A review committee, consisting of the Provost, Graduate Dean, and members of a faculty advisory committee will review the applications.

TERMS OF THE MELLON FOUNDATION DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP
During the tenure of the Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, the following conditions must be met:

* A Mellon Foundation Dissertation fellow must be a full-time UAF graduate student and must devote at least 20 hours per week to writing directed by the major advisor or other mentor.

* Any stipend or salary received by the student during the writing year other than the Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship must be reviewed and approved by the Mellon Foundation Review Committee – having other funding does not preclude submission of an application.

* The graduate fellowship includes a $30,000 stipend for 12 months, tuition for up to nine (9) graduate (or other approved courses) credits per semester and payment of annual Graduate Student Health Insurance. The fellowship does not include payment of required fees.

* The Graduate School will issue the fellowship award letter. Payment will be made monthly in 12 equal installments and tuition and Graduate Student Health Insurance will be posted to the student’s account after the Mellon Foundation Dissertation fellow has alerted the Graduate School that registration is completed.