

Engagement Scholarship Consortium Announces Recipients of Engaged Scholarship Research/Creative Activities Grants

For Immediate Release

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The Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC) is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2026 Research/Creative Activities Grants Program. This competitive program awards a limited number of grants—up to \$5,000 each—to faculty and staff. Established in 2019, the program supports one-year collaborative projects involving faculty and staff from a single discipline or across multiple universities.

2026 ESC Research/Creative Activities Grants recipients are:

- **Andrew Bale**, Dickinson College, for *Blueprints of Belonging: The Art in Photovoice*
- **Eugenia Costa-Giomi**, Ohio State University, for *Desde el Principio: Engaging Parents in Their Children's Learning*
- **Yingying Han**, University of Tennessee, for *Activating Archival Records through Storytelling and Community-Centered Collection Building to Counter Archival Silence With/in Asian American Communities*
- **Amanda Heffernan**, Seattle University, for *Constrained Choices and Community Care in the Sierra Huasteca: Traditional Midwives, Government Obstetric Services, and the Indigenous Families Caught Between*
- **Amanda Holland**, Texas Tech University, for *Creating Resilience in the South Plains: A Mentorship Approach*
- **Eric Junco**, Northern Illinois University, for *Co-Designing Healing Classrooms: Community-Engaged SEL and Trauma-Informed Practice in North Macedonia*
- **Caroline Kobia**, Mississippi State University, for *HCD for Global Resilience: A Co-Created Model of Retail Innovation and African Artisan Empowerment*
- **Daniel Michel**, Ohio State University, for *Promoting Vaccine Confidence in Rural and Urban Ohio through Undergraduate-Led Gamified Community Engagement*
- **Rebecca Nesbit**, University of Georgia, for *Community-Engaged Research for Resilience: Examining How Collaborative Data Practices Strengthen Nonprofit Adaptability in Times of Policy Change*

- **Rebekah Radtke**, University of Kentucky, for *Social Innovation Intensive*
- **Kelly Simonton**, University of Wyoming, for *Teaching SEL through Physical Activity: Training for In-Service Teachers and School Supporters*
- **Leah Sprain**, University of Colorado - Boulder, for *Sustainable and Equitable Engagement: Community-Based Research on Boulder's Community Assembly*
- **Yurou Wang**, University of Alabama, for *Youth Leadership for Whole Child School Improvement: Empowering Middle School Students as Change Agents*
- **Alexa Warwick**, Michigan State University, for *Enhancing State Agency Capacity for Effective Public Engagement*
- **Alyssa Webb**, University of Connecticut, for *Co-Defining Safety: Participatory Action Research for Public Safety Reform in Gun-Violence-Affected Communities*

ESC President Laurie A. Van Egeren, Vice Provost for Public Engagement at the University of Minnesota, underscored the importance of funding engagement scholarship. “Community-engaged research and creative activities emerge through thoughtful partnerships built on respect, understanding, reciprocity, and a commitment to mutual benefit. It takes time to build the trust necessary to create meaningful programs and outcomes, and ESC grants help faculty and community partners establish the relationships that enable real progress on critical issues,” said Van Egeren. “These grants are often the first step toward larger endeavors.”

Grant recipients will be recognized on the ESC website and in the program for the ESC Annual Conference (October 7–8 in Knoxville, TN). For more information about the 2026 ESC Conference, including registration details, please visit the [ESC website](#).

The Engagement Scholarship Consortium is the premier resource for higher education institutions—and for their faculty, staff, students, and community partners—who are committed to promoting excellence in the scholarship and practice of community engagement locally and globally.

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