

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

For Immediate Release
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The Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC) announces the recipients of its 2025 Research/Creative Activities Grants Program. The program competitively awards a limited number of grants of up to \$5,000 each to faculty. Begun in 2019, these grants are intended to fund one-year collaborative projects among faculty from more than one discipline and/or more than one university.

2025 ESC Research/Creative Activities Grants recipients are:

- **Hollie Cost**, Auburn University, for *Community Voices, Health Choices: Community-Driven Health Solutions*
- **Irina Castellanos**, Indiana University, for *A Lifetime of Auditory Wellness: Hearing Histories of Residents in Senior Living Communities Can Reshape Hearing Healthcare For Aging Adults*
- **Yuri Gloumakov**, University of Connecticut, for *Transformative Skill-Building for Students with Limb Differences*
- **Jie Gao**, University of Alabama - Birmingham, for *Evaluating the Impact of a Park Visit Program on the Emotional Well-Beings of Residents in a Subsidized Senior Home (SSH)*
- **Olzhas Taniyev**, East Carolina University, for *Let's Play Pickleball: An Intergenerational Approach to Promoting Social Connections and Community Engagement*
- **Arya Ansari**, Ohio State University, for *Identifying Key School Experiences Linked to Reduced Absenteeism*
- **Jorhie Beadle**, Michigan State University, for *Understanding Indigenous Food Sovereignty in Michigan*
- **Pengyi Shi**, Purdue University, for *Optimizing Resource Allocation for SUD Treatment in Rural Indiana: A Community-Engaged Approach*
- **Mark Edwards**, Oregon State University, for *Digital Agricultural Extension in Community-Engaged Scholarship: An Analysis of Barriers and Opportunities in Public Higher Education Institution Outreach to Rural Communities in Nigeria*

- **Lara Hebert**, University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign, for *Building Confidence and Connection through Culturally-Rich STEM Experiences*
- **Jingyuan Zhang**, East Tennessee State University, for *Enhancing Rural Mathematics Education: Addressing Unique Challenges through University-School Partnerships*
- **Terrance Lewis**, University of Alabama, for *(Re)membering and (Re)imaging: Incorporating Street Art in Social Studies Curriculum and Teacher Preparation*
- **Bridget Joyner-Carpanini**, Seattle University, for *A Mixed Methods Study of Critical Community-Engaged Learning in Criminal Justice: An Examination of Methodology and Preliminary Results*
- **Lesley Harris**, University of Louisville, for *“Our World Our Say”: The Impact of a Youth-Led Photovoice Exhibition on HIV and Environmental Justice in Hai Phong, Vietnam*
- **Tiffany Washington**, University of Tennessee, for *Enhancing Dementia Awareness and Support through Faith Leadership in Ghana*
- **Charles Rapp**, Pennsylvania State University, for *2025 De-escalation Training Philadelphia Pilot Program*

ESC President Laurie A. Van Egeren, assistant provost for university-community partnerships at Michigan State University, underscored the need to fund engagement scholarship. “Community-engaged research and creative activities emerge through thoughtful partnerships built on respect, understanding, reciprocity, and commitment to mutual benefits. It takes time to develop the trust necessary to create programs and outcomes, and ESC grants help faculty and community partners establish those relationships that make meaningful differences on critical problems,” said Van Egeren. “These grants are often the first step to larger endeavors.”

Grant recipients will be recognized at the ESC Annual Conference (October 8-9, Roanoke, VA) through video recordings and other displays of their work. For more information about the 2025 ESC Conference, including registration, visit the [ESC website](#).

The Engagement Scholarship Consortium is the premier resource for higher education institutions and their faculty, staff, students, and community partners focused on promoting excellence in the scholarship and practice of engaged scholarship locally and globally.

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