



Southern Methodist University Announces Fulbright Awards for 2019-2020

May 30, 2019 — Southern Methodist University is pleased to announce that Megan Brown and Megan Latoya have received Fulbright U.S. Student Program awards in Anthropology for the 2019-2020 academic year from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Nancy Negrete, majoring in World Languages and Accounting, has been named an Alternate to the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Spain.

Ms. Brown and Ms. Latoya, both PhD candidates, are two of over 2,100 U.S. citizens who will study, conduct research, and teach abroad for the 2019-2020 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as their record of service and leadership potential in their respective fields.

Megan Brown will be living in Monteverde, Costa Rica to research points of connection between health and reforestation processes by linking ethnographic, health, and geospatial data. “Because my research is collaborative and community-based,” Brown writes, “[the Fulbright scholarship] gives me the opportunity to build cross-cultural relationships and advance my career as a scholar invested in human health and resilience.” After finishing her dissertation, Megan plans to work in a non-profit or government agency to develop, improve, and implement global public health programs.

Megan Latoya will be working in poor urban communities in Recife, Brazil. She will examine how public health campaigns engage *favela* communities, how the state prioritizes care for families affected by the Zika virus, and the strategies that women use to build resilient support systems to access care. Megan applied to the Fulbright for the unique chance to work with a foreign health apparatus and to create public health agendas that are sensitive to the needs of marginalized communities. She plans to work as a medical advisor for the World Health Organization or United Nations, with a specialization in Portuguese-speaking countries. Her advice for students pursuing a Fulbright: “Start by thinking about the small ways that you can make a difference in a community and build your project from there.” She also emphasizes that “the focus on cultural exchange is crucial for a good application.”

Nancy Negrete applied to the English Teaching Assistant program to share the diversity of North American culture with students and the local community in Spain. Since she plans to pursue a career in public accounting, the experience will help her combine passions for business and giving back. She hopes to alleviate financial illiteracy using the teaching skills she will acquire during the Fulbright ETA. Nancy strongly recommends “taking a step back and meditating on the reasons on why you would like to receive a Fulbright; this will help when it comes to writing your Statement of Grant Purpose and Personal Statement. Also, reach out to your mentors for honest feedback on your statements.”

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is administered at SMU by **Dr. Rachel Ball-Phillips**. The Office of National Student Fellowships helps graduate and undergraduate students apply to a number of nationally-competitive fellowships such as the Fulbright.

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government’s flagship international educational exchange program and is designed to build lasting connections between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The Fulbright Program is funded through an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State. Participating governments and host institutions, corporations, and foundations around the world also provide direct and indirect support to the Program, which operates in over 160 countries worldwide.