

Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship for Students of Color

The Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship for Students of Color is dedicated to providing financial assistance to minority students pursuing graduate education in archival administration and to encouraging ethnic diversity in the Midwest Archives Conference and the archival profession as a whole. New this year, scholarship recipients were required to be residents or full-time students in the MAC region. The Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship Committee received five complete applications from which they unanimously agreed to award the scholarships to Valeria Dávila Gronros and Erik Henderson.

Valeria Dávila Gronros is an Oregon-based student completing her second semester in the Archives Studies program at Emporia State University in Kansas. She currently holds the position of library diversity scholar at Oregon State University Libraries and Press and has 18 months previous experience as a digitization technician in the libraries' Special Collections and Archives Research Center. Her application materials highlighted her interest and already significant work in the area of film and photography preservation, including a full-tuition and travel scholarship to attend the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) Film Preservation and Restoration School Latin America in 2017 and an internship at the Yale University Film Study Center last summer. Her interest in digitization, digital preservation, open access, and open archives recently led her to join the committee organizing "No Time To Wait," a free symposium focused on open media, open standards, and digital audiovisual preservation. She was nominated to this position after volunteering to edit the committee's streaming videos to make them available online, to caption them in English to aid the hearing impaired, and to subtitle them in Spanish to benefit Spanish-speaking audiences. Her references remarked on her initiative, curiosity, and commitment, especially in projects serving the Latinx community, as well as professional contributions impressive for a student/early-career archivist. As her current supervisor wrote, "Valeria Dávila has an incredibly bright future within the archival profession. . . . she has demonstrated her desire to serve traditionally underrepresented communities as well as gain experience within all aspects of librarianship, and she has displayed a great deal of initiative in pursuing various service and scholarship opportunities." The committee is pleased to be able to support Valeria Dávila Gronros as she continues her archival education.

Erik Henderson is a second-semester Information and Library Science master's student at the University of Iowa. His interest in archives developed out of his appreciation for history and his undergraduate experience working at the Grinnell College Special Collections; it was further intensified by his current position at the Iowa Women's Archives. The committee was impressed by the amount of professional involvement Henderson has already amassed, including three and a half years of archival experience and his involvement in MAC as a moderator for a student research panel session at the 2020 Annual Meeting in Des Moines (now unfortunately canceled). His essay vividly reflects a commitment to increasing black representation at predominantly white institutions and ensuring that these materials are accessible to students. It also conveys his sense of excitement and satisfaction at undertaking, as part of a work assignment, research in Iowa Women's Archives on a previously underrecognized African American woman leader and at the opportunity for the archives to help educate people about her contributions. Henderson's academic advisor highlighted his drive and determination. "As a scholar researching the history of community archives in the United States, I was excited for the opportunity to speak with a passionate student who knew that he wanted to be a part of documenting his community and diversifying archival collections. Erik has continued to share this passion, dedicating himself to his studies and a focus on archival practice through his coursework." The committee believes that Erik Henderson will have much to contribute to the profession and is pleased to support him as he completes his archival education.