

The Frank Fear Fellowship for Excellence in Community Engagement



ABOUT THE AWARD

This fellowship fund has been created in honor of Frank Fear by his colleagues and friends. It recognizes outstanding graduate students in the Department of Community Sustainability who excel in scholarship that reflects the democratic practice of community engagement.

The fellowship celebrates Frank's contributions in his long career at Michigan State University. Frank worked tirelessly to create an environment that allowed students, colleagues, and staff to flourish. His work inside and outside the university has been characterized by a democratic practice of engagement, with the ultimate goal of transforming higher education and advancing the public good.

Recipients of the Frank Fear Award will reflect the qualities that Frank embodied during his career at MSU, such as excellence and creativity in scholarship; a commitment to crossing disciplinary boundaries to work for change in the public good; an ability to engage with communities as a scholar-practitioner; and a commitment to civility, equity, and compassion in interactions with students, colleagues, and community partners.

ABOUT FRANK FEAR

Frank A. Fear is professor emeritus, Michigan State University, where he served as a faculty member and administrator for nearly forty years. A sociologist by education, Fear is interested in how public and nonprofit institutions – higher education in particular – support and enable democracy and citizen action. Fear is the lead author of *Coming to Critical Engagement* (2006) and has published in various journals, including *The Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*, *About Campus*, and *The Higher Education Exchange*. In addition, he has authored book chapters on community-engaged scholarship.

From 1989-1995, Frank served as chairperson of the Department of Resource Development (a precursor unit to the Department of Community Sustainability) and, from 1997-2000, served as the inaugural chairperson of The Liberty Hyde Bailey Scholars Program, a distinctive undergraduate program that promotes undergraduate student & faculty development through collaborative learning. Between those assignments, Frank was acting associate director of MSU Extension. From 2001-05, Frank devoted full attention to scholarly expressions with emphasis on writing.

Fear served as a MSU Senior Fellow in Outreach and Engagement and received MSU's Gliozzo Award for International Public Diplomacy. In addition, academic units under his direction won the MSU Phi Kappa Phi Award for Interdisciplinary Scholarship, the MSU Excellence in Diversity Award, and the Templeton Foundation's "College and Character" designation for promoting students' ethical and citizen-minded development. Involved in community affairs, Fear served as a two-term president of the Greater Lansing (MI) Food Bank and currently serves as vice president of Women's March Fort Myers.

In his work with graduate students, Frank co-designed and taught all three graduate core courses in Resource Development, and co-designed and taught a graduate course in Theory and Practice of Engaged Learning. During his academic career, he served on graduate committees of nearly 200 MSU master's and doctoral students. In all his work and interactions with others, Frank's commitment to engagement has been central.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Each year one Fear Fellowship will be awarded, provided that qualified candidates have applied. Eligible applicants must be enrolled as CSUS PhD and MS students. During their career in CSUS, applicants should demonstrate a commitment to the scholarship of engagement and advancing the public good, including:

- evidence of a student's excellence and creativity in scholarship;
- an ability to act as a scholar-practitioner to advance the public good;
- a commitment to democratic engagement principles while working with communities; and
- a commitment to civility, equity, and compassion in interactions with fellow students, colleagues, and community partners.

All students are encouraged to apply, but preference will be given to those who have not previously been awarded this endowed fellowship.

(Updated to clarify eligibility, 11/17/21)