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FTE Awards 16 Scholars of Color Doctoral Fellowships

ATLANTA (April 6, 2020) — The Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE) is pleased to announce it has selected 16 doctoral students of color to join its long-standing community of theological scholars.

Students will either receive the Fellowship for Doctoral Students of African Descent or the Fellowship for Latino/a, Asian and First Nations Doctoral Students. Each Fellow will receive a living stipend up to \$25,000 to support their PhD or ThD program in religion, theological or biblical studies beyond the coursework stage.

“We received a record number of applications making this year’s selection process the most competitive year-to-date,” said Dr. Patrick B. Reyes, FTE senior director of learning design. “The work being done by each Fellow in the 2020 class is exactly what we need during these uncertain times. Their collective projects honor their communities of accountability and cast a vision for an academy that cares deeply about the world we all hope to inhabit.”

As part of the fellowship award, Fellows will have the opportunity to attend the 2020 FTE Forum for Theological Educators, held November 18-20, in Boston, Massachusetts, prior to the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature. The Forum will provide opportunities for networking, professional development, vocational exploration and mentoring.

FTE welcomes the following recipients into the 2020 class of Doctoral Fellows:

Fellowship for Doctoral Students of African Descent:

- **Shaundra Cunningham**, University of Tennessee
- **Kamilah Hall Sharp**, Brite Divinity School
- **Lahrona Welch Little**, Emory University
- **Shari C. Madkins**, Emory University
- **Gina A. S. Robinson**, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
- **Stanley Talbert**, Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York
- **Tamisha A Tyler**, Fuller Theological Seminary
- **Austin Bess Washington**, Boston University
- **Justin West**, Christian Theological Seminary
- **Byron D. Wratee**, Boston College

Fellowship for Latino/a, Asian and First Nations Doctoral Students:

- **Aminah Al-Attas Bradford**, Duke University
- **Lisa Asedillo Pratt**, Drew University
- **Natasha Huang**, Claremont School of Theology
- **Mihee Kim-Kort**, Indiana University
- **Rudolph P. Reyes II**, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology
- **Grace Vargas**, Southern Methodist University

In addition to its fellowships for dissertation stage doctoral students, FTE provides professional development opportunities for PhD and ThD students in the first two years of their studies. FTE developed these doctoral initiatives to help accelerate the completion of doctoral degrees among students of color and to foster diversity in the academy across North America.

Since 1999, FTE has awarded more than 550 fellowships to students of color and has maintained a 97 percent retention rate among its Doctoral Fellows.

For more information about FTE, visit fteleaders.org.

About Forum for Theological Exploration

The Forum for Theological Exploration is committed to cultivating diverse young adults to be faithful, wise and courageous leaders for the church and the academy. FTE provides resources and a forum for young adults and students to explore their purpose and call to pastoral ministry and teaching. For more information, visit fteleaders.org.

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