The Graduate Dean’s Award (GDA) promotes diversity of views, experiences and ideas in the pursuit of research, scholarship and creative excellence within graduate education at Kent State University. The GDA seeks to enhance Kent State’s recruitment and support of academically excellent graduate students with diverse backgrounds. Each GDA recipient is awarded $5,000 from the Division of Graduate Studies, an enhancement of a full-time graduate assistantship stipend. The GDA is a reflection of the wide range of students and disciplines at Kent State.

Graduate Dean’s Award 2015 Recipients

**Ezinne Anaba**  
M.P.H., Public Health  
The field of public health is striving to employ a diverse workforce to better meet the needs of underserved populations; however, only 10 percent of public health employees are ethnic minorities. Anaba’s career goal is to become a preventive medicine nurse in the U.S. military. Her nominator describes her intellectual abilities and experiences working with diverse populations as exceptional. Anaba’s experiences working in basic and applied clinical settings are well suited for the public health program. Her strong academic background and commitment to healthcare equity make her an ideal recipient of the Graduate Dean’s Award.

**Maya Brown**  
M.A., Ethnomusicology  
African-Americans are underrepresented in graduate-level music programs. Brown is a talented vocalist, musician and student. Her world travels and interest in the intersection of music and culture have instilled her with a personal desire to use ethnomusicology as a medium to enrich the global community. Brown’s interdisciplinary, international interactions and research on the role of children’s songs in various cultures will contribute to the diversity of scholarship within her department.

**Jason Anderson**  
Ph.D., Clinical Psychology  
African-Americans are underrepresented in the discipline of psychology, making up only seven percent of graduate student affiliates in the American Psychological Association. As a former neuropsychology research assistant, Anderson has a strong research background. This research experience culminated into a first-authored research presentation at the 12th Annual Conference of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology. He is described by his nominator as one of the strongest applicants considered for admission into the program. Anderson’s research skills, strong GPA and excellent GRE scores make him an ideal selection for the Graduate Dean’s Award.

**Delilah Ellzey**  
Ph.D., Clinical Psychology  
African-Americans make up 12 percent of the U.S. population; however, they are dramatically underrepresented in psychological graduate education programs. Ellzey has experience working in community settings serving ethnic minorities. Her research focuses on anxiety related disorders in African American children. Her nominator describes her as a strong student whose research interests align with core faculty in the psychological sciences. Ellzey’s strong academic background and community service work make her an ideal recipient of the GDA.
Monica Garcia
Ph.D., Clinical Psychology
Latinos comprise 16 percent of the U.S. population but continue to be underrepresented in the field of psychology, making up only six percent of graduate student affiliates in the American Psychological Association. Garcia’s nominator describes her as an academically talented student with a high GPA and strong GRE scores. Her research interests are centered on stress, resiliency and trauma. Garcia’s strong research background and academic record indicate that she is an intellectual student that will contribute to the diversity and advancement of psychological research.

Oliver Harper
Ph.D., Exercise Physiology
Ethnic minority students are underrepresented in graduate-level exercise physiology programs, comprising only 3 percent of students in Kent State’s program. Harper is described by his nominator as a hardworking and bright student that has helped cultivate a culture of exercise in a group of previously sedentary individuals. Harper’s outstanding academic background and mentorship skills will contribute to the diversity of scholarship in the field of exercise physiology, making him an ideal selection for the Graduate Dean’s Award.

Heather Michaud
Ph.D., Computer Science
Women in computer science are underrepresented in the field, comprising only seven percent of Ph.D. students in Kent State’s program. With an exceptional academic record, Michaud’s nominator describes her as a strong addition to the computer science Ph.D. program. Her scholastic and professional accomplishments include a first-authored report that was presented at the 2014 International Conference on Education, Psychology and Social Sciences, and several merit awards for her academic achievements. Michaud’s strong analytical abilities, impressive academic record and research experience will help her in solving fundamental problems in computer science and contribute to diversity in the field.

Malcolm Jones
M.M., Conducting
African-Americans are underrepresented in graduate-level music programs. Jones’ career goal is to become a college professor and band director. He has experience working as a high school band director and advocating for students from underprivileged backgrounds. His nominator describes him as an ideal candidate for the Graduate Dean’s Award, whose study in the field would contribute to proliferation and advocacy for minorities in leadership positions in the field of music education and conducting.

The Division of Graduate Studies names up to 10 Graduate Dean’s Awards annually, to students beginning graduate school in the fall semester. Nominations must come from faculty within the academic program of the student. For more information about the Graduate Dean’s Award and the nomination form, please visit www.kent.edu/graduatestudies/gda.