



MACALESTER

## Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) Mellon Academic Leadership Fellows at Macalester College

In June 2022, the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) received a \$1.5 million grant from the Mellon Foundation to support a three-year ACM Mellon Academic Leadership Fellows program. The goal is to familiarize Humanities faculty with academic leadership and build pipelines to academic administration. The ACM's initiative commenced in July 2022 and will run through June 2025.

Under the terms of the grant award, the 14 ACM colleges were offered the opportunity to appoint a combined total of 10 tenured humanities faculty to two-year terms as Fellows. The ACM hosted one application cycle in spring 2023 to identify and select the faculty who will receive these appointments. We are delighted to announce that Duchess Harris, Professor of American Studies, and Andrea Kaston Tange, Professor of English, were selected to serve as ACM Academic Leadership Fellows for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic years. During their term, each will hold the title of Special Assistant to the Provost for Strategic Initiatives.

The timing of this exciting opportunity coincides with the implementation phase of the new strategic plan, *Imagine, Macalester*. Each fellows' project begins as we are moving from imagination to implementation. Having a sustained two-year commitment from these fellows will help us keep momentum going on our plan and provide an impactful way for the fellows to grow as leaders as they interact in important ways with all of our campus constituencies: students, staff, faculty, senior leaders, alumni, board members, and neighbors.

Dr. Duchess Harris will work on a project intended to amplify student experiential learning. The three stated goals around experiential learning in the strategic plan are:



- Ensure all students have access to internships, community engagement, study away, and entrepreneurial learning and experiences that prepare them for life after Macalester
- Assess the feasibility of summer/January break programming to increase flexibility, grow opportunities for international experiences, and maximize use of our facilities and resources
- Emphasize the uniqueness of our location in a capital city by strengthening partnerships with Twin Cities organizations.

Her portfolio of work during the two-year fellowship will include developing white papers or committee recommendations on the following areas: ensuring that all students have access to internships, community engagement, study away by strengthening partnerships with Twin Cities organizations that involve our students in mutually beneficial learning, service, cultural engagement, and employment opportunities; expand the entrepreneurial learning and experience of Macalester students; assess the feasibility of summer/January break programming to increase flexibility, grow opportunities for international experiences, and maximize use of our facilities and resources.



Andrea Kaston Tange's project during this fellowship will be to create an infrastructure for an online "Student Pathways" project, partly modeled on this extremely robust and engaging one from Northeastern University. Such a multi-year undertaking requires campus support for web design and implementation, and cooperation with Alumni Relations. The Fellow term enables piloting this project, including: creating a set of interview

questions for alumni; helping to design the website functionality (keys: make it searchable by major *and* by career area, so that people can start at either point and trace student paths); launching a limited version of the site, focusing initially on 5 to 8 departments across campus, with the longer-term goal of capturing alumni pathways for all departments. The goal would be to help prospective students and their families, as well as current students, see the possibilities of pathways from a major to a career that are enabled by our unique combination of SLAC cross-disciplinary opportunities and Twin Cities location advantages. This speaks most immediately to the Strategic Plan goal of nurturing lifelong connections among students, faculty, and alumni, and would provide information to help us in thinking about the curricular goal of updating student pathways and the campus goal of connecting more robustly to Twin Cities communities.