



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 4, 2017

**Contact: Chris Beaman**

Director of Marketing and Communications

800.284.3167

chris@kdp.org

**PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL STUDENT NAMED  
2016–2017 LOUISE M. BERMAN FELLOWSHIP AWARD WINNER**

(INDIANAPOLIS)—Staci B. Martin, Adjunct Instructor for Portland State University in Portland, Oregon, has been chosen as the 2016–2017 Louise M. Berman Fellowship Award winner, a research fund managed by Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education. This award will assist Martin in funding her research project *Co-creating Spaces of Critical Hope through the Use of Psychosocial Peace Building Education Course in Higher Education Emergencies Context: Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kenyatta University*. The project's first phase is scheduled to begin in January 2017.

Martin's principal remarked, "I didn't realize that students could have a conversation in such a way. Young people have the ability to offer hope and possibility to each other."

Martin reflected on the goals of her project. "My drive and determination is to co-create spaces so that everyone is seen, heard, and valued. I will create a space in which I am not giving voice to the voiceless; rather, I am co-creating spaces where those voices can speak for themselves and be heard," she said. "The monetary award and recognition granted to me by the Berman Fellowship Committee will enable me to offer this space to the women of Nairobi."

KDP is honored to serve as the endowment manager for the legacy of the Louise M. Berman Fellows Fund. Dr. Berman is a longtime member of KDP and honored Laureate. Dr. Berman's ideals support new modes of inquiry that will further the field of education. This respected award, therefore, is open to all graduate students at the master's and doctorate levels. The purpose of the award is to enable Fellows to conduct research that will:

- Advance the field of education to promote growth and development;
- Promote ethical decision-making in educational settings;
- Foster collaboration on major education initiatives to create an open dialogue among people of all races, ages, genders, and abilities;
- Propose future direction for educational leadership in a range of settings, including through Kappa Delta Pi; and
- Creatively explore social justice issues and the study of the human condition.

"I entered this doctorate wondering why these little projects seemed to have staying power and the ability to transform some participants, like myself," Martin added. "I wondered if it offered spaces of hope, or that it supported a different type of listening, or that it offered a time, place, and space for educators and learners to be heard, seen, and valued. Perhaps it is all these factors and more."

---

**About Kappa Delta Pi**

*Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, is a 501 (c) (3) organization established in 1911 to recognize and promote excellence in education, provide a reasoned voice for significant issues, and link learning communities of educators. Through its programs, services, and strategic partnerships, KDP supports the professional growth and teaching practices of educators throughout all phases and levels of their careers. The organization currently has more than 600 chapters and an active membership of nearly 40,000 worldwide.*