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NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL STUDENT NAMED
2015–2016 LOUISE M. BERMAN FELLOWSHIP AWARD WINNER

(INDIANAPOLIS)—David Carroll, Band Instructor for Naperville Community Unit School District 203 in Naperville, Illinois, has been chosen as the 2015–2016 Louise M. Berman Fellowship Award winner, a research fund managed by Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education. This award will assist Carroll in funding his research project, An Investigation into the Relationship between Textual Literacy and Musical Literacy. The project’s first phase is scheduled to begin September 2016.

Carroll’s dissertation chair, Dr. Elizabeth Wilkins, Professor at Northern Illinois University, shares that “David’s study will provide a much-needed base of experimental research, in this case one of the first studies in the country to use a casual experiment design involving band students. I see curriculum directors benefiting from David’s study, as it will help determine whether band instruction may benefit text literacy instruction.”

“The monetary award and recognition granted to me by the Berman Fellowship Committee will enable me to offer experimental music instruction for my study without conflicting with the established curriculum,” wrote Carroll in a thank you note to reviewers. “Simply put, this study would not be possible without the generous assistance of this fellowship.”

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 Kappa Delta Pi; and
• Creatively explore social justice issues and the study of the human condition.

“I believe that my proposal supports Ms. Berman’s ideals by honoring the artistic benefits of music instruction while advocating for the literacy benefits of music reading. This bidirectional relationship is purported by many music teachers—even though there exists little empirical evidence to support such a claim,” Carroll wrote. “My study will help establish a foundation of evidence by which to test this relationship, and hopefully provide a justifiable argument in favor of continued (or even expanded) opportunities for the study of music among elementary and middle school students.”

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.