

For Immediate Release
July 27, 2015

Contact: Mary Larkin, Communications Director
Phone: 612-338-6763 or email: larkin@aia-mn.org

2015 Clarence Wigington Minority Architectural Scholarship Recipients Announced

Minneapolis, Minnesota – The Minnesota Architectural Foundation is pleased to announce that **Jessica Holmes** and **Savannah Steele** are the **2015 Clarence Wigington Minority Architectural Scholarship** recipients.



Jessica Holmes, beginning her first year in the University of Minnesota M. Arch. program, said in her scholarship application, *“With this scholarship I would continue to be a student of high moral and academic standard while utilizing my passion, creativity and problem-solving skills to effectively assist my cohorts throughout the duration of my educational and professional endeavors.”*



Savannah Steele, starting her first year in the University of Minnesota M. Arch. program, stated in her application, *“I plan to pursue a career in sustainable industrial and public architecture. Once I have gained the skills necessary to attend to the project specific needs of a client, site, and community, I intend to lead my own firm. I look forward to gaining knowledge that can be used for the purpose of generating community renewal, improving civic engagement, decreasing waste, and encouraging forward thinking building designs.”*

Advancing **diversity** in the architectural profession, the Clarence Wigington Minority Architectural Scholarship aims to firmly launch the careers of promising minority students by providing focused and sustained financial support through scholarships during professional education at the University of Minnesota College of Design.

Created in 1992 as the Minority Architectural Scholarship, the fund was renamed in 2007 to recognize the extraordinary professional and civic accomplishments of Clarence Wigington — the first African American municipal architect in the United States and the first licensed African-American architect in Minnesota.

The scholarship provides tuition support of up to \$6,000 per year for minority students who wish to pursue a professional education in architecture at the University of Minnesota, and who hold promise for succeeding in an architectural career. Financial support is provided through fundraising at the annual AIA Minnesota Convention and ongoing donations.

Past Clarence Wigington Minority Architectural Scholars include:

Josh Ong: M.Arch. degree 2015. Currently employed at Cermak Rhoades Architecture.

Namdi Alexander: M. Arch. degree 2014. Currently employed at BKV Group.

Vanessa Abin-Fuentes: M. Arch. degree 2014. Currently employed at LMN Architects in Seattle.

Jonathon Jacobs: M. Arch. degree 2013. Currently employed at Wold Architects.

Keon Blasingame: M. Arch. degree 2005. Currently employed at LSE Architects.

Pauv Thouk: M. Arch degree 2005. Currently employed at Snow Kreilich Architects.

The Minnesota Architectural Foundation provides scholarships, fellowships, and grants to students, faculty, and organizations that seek to promote public awareness of architecture and the built environment.

To make a donation or learn more, visit www.MinnesotaArchitecturalFoundation.org.