

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **More Than \$300,000 in New Grants Awarded to Promote Research on Graduate and Professional Education**

**Washington, DC, March 15, 2016**—The Access Group Center for Research & Policy Analysis<sup>SM</sup> (the “Center”) and the [Association for Institutional Research](#) (AIR) announced today the award of more than \$300,000 in grants for research on access, affordability, and the value of legal and other graduate and professional education. The awards were made under a new Research and Dissertation Fellows grant program aimed at encouraging more researchers to study critical issues in graduate and professional education.

“There is a lot of research being done on the issues of access, affordability, and value for undergraduate education, but unfortunately, the same cannot be said for graduate and professional studies,” says Christopher P. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of Access Group. “We partnered with AIR to change that by making funding available to encourage such scholarship.” The program, funded by Access Group and administered by AIR, provides up to \$50,000 for scholars and \$25,000 for doctoral students to conduct year-long research projects.

The first year of awards will fund six scholars’ research projects and one doctoral student’s dissertation research on a variety of topics related to graduate and professional school access, diversity and value:

- A \$49,000 research grant awarded to Seth Gershenson, assistant professor at American University, to explore whether the demographic match between law school instructors and students affects students’ academic progress and career paths.
- A \$47,000 research grant to Assistant Professor Dennis Kramer, with the University of Florida, to examine the impact of need-based aid programs on the graduate and professional school enrollment of low-income students at the institutional and national levels.
- A \$50,000 research grant to Manuel Gonzalez Canche, assistant professor at the University of Georgia, to estimate the effect of losing the federal loan subsidy on debt accumulation for law and professional students.
- A \$50,000 research grant to Associate Professor of Higher Education Karen Webber, with the University of Georgia, to examine the increase in graduate student debt between 2008 and 2012.
- A \$50,000 research grant to Associate Professor Yonghong Xu, with the University of Memphis, to examine diversity in law schools and how the educational experiences of women and racial minorities contribute to their career progress in legal professions.

- A \$50,000 research grant to Stephen DesJardins, a professor at the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor, to address ways that law schools can use data systematically to admit students into their programs and then predict which students will actually enroll at the institution.
- A \$12,400 dissertation grant to Nayoung Rim, a Ph.D. student at the University of Chicago, to study the effect of Title IX on gender disparity in legal education and other graduate and professional education.

Access Group launched its research and grant-making activities in June 2014. Since that time, it has awarded more than \$2 million in grants in support of access, affordability, and value in legal education, specifically, and graduate and professional education more broadly.

For more information about the Center and its grant programs, visit [AccessResearch.org](https://www.accessresearch.org).

**About Access Group:** Founded in 1983, Access Group, Inc. is a nonprofit membership organization comprised of nearly 200 nonprofit and state-affiliated ABA-approved law schools. The organization works to further access, affordability, and the value of legal education, specifically, and graduate and professional education more broadly, through research, policy advocacy, and direct member and student educational services. Access Group is headquartered in West Chester, PA; its Center for Research and Policy Analysis is located in Washington, DC.

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