

# Graduate Dean's Award 2013 Recipients

*The Graduate Dean's Award (GDA) promotes diversity of views, experiences and ideas in the pursuit of research, scholarship and creative excellence within graduate education at Kent State University. The GDA seeks to enhance Kent State's recruitment and support of academically excellent graduate students with diverse backgrounds. Each GDA recipient is awarded \$5,000 from the Division of Graduate Studies, an enhancement of a full-time graduate assistantship stipend. The GDA is a reflection of the wide range of students and disciplines at Kent State.*



**Jennifer Bryant**  
Ph.D. Public Health

The field of public health is striving to employ a diverse workforce to better meet the needs of underserved populations; however, only 10 percent of public health employees are ethnic minorities. Bryant wants to

become a health agency director, so that she may bridge the gap that exists between health-promoting agencies and the targeted audience, as well as to provide support in the development of nutritional policies. Bryant's dedication to community and professional service, along with numerous academic honors and research experience, as a former McNair Scholar, make her an ideal recipient of the Graduate Dean's Award.



**Christopher Cooper**  
M.S. Nutrition

In the field of nutrition, only 2.7 percent of all registered dietitians are African-American and 3.4 percent are male. Cooper has been committed to pursuing a career in healthcare since childhood. His passion,

volunteerism and strong moral character will help Cooper to thrive in the program and make significant contributions to the field. Cooper's research focus is on a holistic approach to healthcare as related to nutritional management of chronic disease and an emphasis on community healthcare disparities.



**Sarah Croome**  
Ph.D. Mathematical Sciences

The number of women in mathematics graduate programs is increasing; however, they are still underrepresented compared to their male counterparts – only 43 percent of doctoral recipients in mathematical sciences are women.

Croome's career goals are to engage in scholarly research and become a university professor. Her strong undergraduate career, leadership in extracurricular involvement and attendance at faculty seminars and in graduate courses demonstrates that she is an outstanding student who will contribute to the diversity in the field of mathematics.



**Martale Davis**  
Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

African-Americans account for only five percent of all doctorate recipients in clinical psychology. Davis is a highly qualified doctoral candidate who has ample experience in the field, having worked as a care provider for

intellectually impaired individuals. Davis's research includes assessing the treatment of anxiety disorders within the African-American community and the role ethnic identity plays in the development of anxiety-related symptoms. He has also explored the variables that affect adherence among teens diagnosed with Sickle Cell Anemia. Davis hopes to become a catalyst for prevention and intervention methods, particularly for underserved populations.

The Division of Graduate Studies names 10 Graduate Dean's Awards annually, to students beginning graduate school in the fall semester. Nominations must come from faculty within the academic program of the student. For more information about the Graduate Dean's Award and the nomination form, please visit <http://www.kent.edu/graduatestudies/faculty-staff/dean-award.cfm>.

  
**KENT STATE**  
UNIVERSITY  
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*More recipients on reverse side*



**Vivian Hogan**  
Ph.D. Chemistry and  
Biochemistry

Women currently receive only 34.3 percent of doctorate degrees awarded in the areas of chemistry and biochemistry. Hogan enters the program with competitive standardized exam scores and a strong academic background. As an undergraduate, Hogan surpassed graduate students in research and understanding so much that a faculty member guided her research project as if she were an upper-level graduate student. Her commitment to teaching and research will surely result in a positive and productive academic career. In the future, Hogan wishes to work toward her goal of developing a better treatment for cancer.



**Diana Mendez**  
Ph.D. Experimental Psychology

A first-generation college graduate, Mendez is currently the only Hispanic in the experimental psychology program. Mendez is specializing in social-health psychology and is interested in studying health disparities in underserved populations. She hopes to conduct research which will translate into community interventions. Mendez's exceptionally strong background in research, together with her motivation to serve and help others, make her an ideal selection for the Graduate Dean's Award.



**Tanesha Walker**  
Ph.D. Counseling and Human  
Development Services

There is great need for more minority counselors to better reflect the diversity of the nation. Walker earned her master's degree as a full-time student and worker, and she simultaneously volunteered for numerous community service projects. She has both quantitative and qualitative research experience, and has worked with women, the elderly, adolescent males and others during her studies. Her strong academic background and letters of recommendation indicate why Walker was one of the top candidates for Counseling and Human Development Services.



**Ashley Johnson**  
Ph.D. School Psychology

African-American women are underrepresented in the field of school psychology. A first-generation college student and former McNair Scholar, Johnson has been interested in pursuing a career in psychology from a young age. She is dedicated to research and has conducted several studies about factors associated with preschool expulsion. Johnson will focus on culturally competent instructional and classroom-based behavioral management strategies for students with developmental disabilities. Ultimately, Johnson hopes that her work will ensure that all children receive the culturally competent therapeutic support they need to succeed.



**Wandaya Terry**  
M.A. English

Terry is a talented English student who wants to explore how minority women authors use their cultural experiences to reflect and reshape the history and experiences of minority subjects. A hearing-impaired African-American, Terry inspires others with her work ethic, passion for learning and strong academic background. Terry is socially conscious and wants her teaching to make a difference in impoverished communities, as she has worked as an English tutor and is a former AmeriCorps member.



**Vivian Walker**  
M.A. Architecture/M.B.A.

Walker greatly contributes to the diversity of her field, given that only 1.5 percent of architects are African-American. A self-identified creator, artist and designer, her unique talent and exemplary portfolio made Walker a top applicant to the program. She aspires to influence peoples' overall well-being by contributing to the quality of their surroundings. Walker's educational background and extracurricular involvement illustrate her dedication to academia and passion for her community.