

MEDIA RELEASE

14 June 2018

New Fulbright-NPM Graduates Announced

Tēnā koutou katoa

Continuing a proud tradition of investing in and supporting Māori graduate scholarship to create new dynamic international opportunities, Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga (NPM) is pleased to announce its most recent award recipients, in partnership with Fulbright New Zealand.

The Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Graduate Award is granted to promising New Zealand graduate students, in order for them to undertake one year of postgraduate study or research at a US institution in the field of Indigenous development.

These Fulbright-NPM awards offer life-changing opportunities to gain international experience, advance careers and to share Māori worldviews and mātauranga with new friends and colleagues from around the world at their choice of leading American universities.

Rachael Jones (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Rakaipaaka) has a LLB (Hons) and BA (Economics) from the University of Otago. She is an experienced litigation lawyer who currently works at Chapman Tripp, and has advised iwi on issues relating to Treaty of Waitangi settlements, as well as growing post-settlement assets – most recently appearing in the Supreme Court acting for Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei.

Rachael will complete a Master of Laws specialising in constitutional and Indigenous law at Columbia University in New York.

Melissa Derby (Ngāti Ranginui) has Bachelor of Arts from Victoria University of Wellington, a Masters of Arts (Hons) from AUT University, a Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Studies from Columbia University in New York and is currently a Whāia Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Scholar completing a PhD in Education at the University of Canterbury.

During the term of her Fulbright-NPM Award, Melissa will be researching critical theories of race, ethnicity and Indigeneity at Colorado State University and at San Diego University, California.

NPM Co-Director and Fulbright-NPM Alumna Professor Jacinta Ruru (University of Otago) commented, "Rachael and Melissa are impressive Māori scholars who are at the forefront of intellectual thinking. This is a life-changing opportunity for them to be further inspired and we're excited for them. Their work will strongly contribute to our vision of Māori leading Aotearoa New Zealand into the future".

Penelope Borland, Fulbright New Zealand's Executive Director adds, "Fulbright New Zealand is proud to partner with Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga in offering these awards and we are delighted that they will give Melissa and Rachael a tremendous opportunity to further their work and thinking in the

United States. We know that their awards experience will be transformational and the work both women are doing in Māori law and education will contribute to a better New Zealand."

The two Fulbright-NPM Graduate awardees will be leaving for the US later in 2018. They will be honoured at the 2018 Fulbright New Zealand Awards Ceremony on Monday 18 June at Parliament, hosted by Deputy Prime Minister Rt. Hon Winston Peters.

ENDS

Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga (NPM) is a Centre of Research Excellence hosted at the University of Auckland comprising 21 research partners and conducting research of relevance to Māori communities. Our vision is Māori leading New Zealand into the future. NPM research realises Māori aspirations for positive engagement in national life, enhances our excellence in Indigenous scholarship and provides solutions to major challenges facing humanity in local and global settings. Visit www.maramatanga.ac.nz

Fulbright New Zealand was established in 1948 to promote international goodwill and mutual understanding through educational and cultural exchanges between New Zealand and the United States of America. The Fulbright programme offers a range of prestigious awards for New Zealand and American graduate students, academics, artists and professionals to study, research, teach and present their work in each other's countries. More than 3,000 New Zealanders and Americans have benefited from a Fulbright award to date. The programme is mainly funded by the US and New Zealand governments with additional funding from award sponsors, private philanthropists and alumni donors. Visit www.fulbright.org.nz

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