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**Delta State University students awarded prestigious graduate scholarships**

**CLEVELAND, Miss. —** Delta State University is thrilled to celebrate the accomplishments of four outstanding graduate students—Heather Boyer, Monica Grady, Melanie Morris and Timothy Morris —who have each been awarded a $1,000 graduate scholarship from the Mississippi Professional Educators (MPE).

Heather Boyer, a 5th grade special education teacher at Houston Upper Elementary and a resident of Houston, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Western Governors University in Utah and earned both her Master of Education and Educational Specialist degrees from Delta State University. A member of MPE since 2021, she is pursuing a Doctorate degree in Educational Leadership at DSU.

Monica Grady, a mathematics teacher at New Hope Middle School and a resident of Columbus, is a national board-certified teacher and longtime member of MPE since 2013. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Mississippi University for Women, her Master of Science degree from Mississippi State University, and her Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from Arkansas State University. Grady is currently pursuing a Doctorate degree in Education, Curriculum and Instruction at DSU.

Melanie Morris, a 3rd grade mathematics and science teacher at Tishomingo Middle School and a resident of Dennis, earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Mississippi State University and her Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Mississippi. A member of MPE since 2021, she is pursuing an Educational Specialist degree in Curriculum and Instruction at DSU.

Timothy Morris, an English instructor at Jones College and a resident of Ellisville, earned his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in English from William Carey University. A member of MPE since 2020, he is pursuing a Doctorate degree in Professional Studies with an emphasis in higher education at DSU.

Founded in 1979, the Mississippi Professional Educators (MPE) is Mississippi’s largest and premier organization for professional educators, representing approximately 12,000 teachers, administrators, and support personnel across pre-K through graduate education in public and private institutions. Dedicated to promoting better education for Mississippi’s children, MPE awards up to twenty $1,000 scholarships annually to its members pursuing graduate studies at Mississippi colleges and universities.

“We are immensely proud of Heather, Monica, Melanie and Timothy for earning these competitive scholarships,” said Dr. Merideth Van Namen, Dean of the College of Education, Arts, and Humanities at DSU. “Their dedication to advancing their expertise in education exemplifies the commitment to excellence we foster at Delta State.”

For more information about MPE’s graduate scholarship opportunities and membership benefits, visit [www.mpe.org](http://www.mpe.org). For details about Delta State University’s graduate programs, visit [www.deltastate.edu](http://www.deltastate.edu).

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**About Delta State University:**Delta State University is a four-year public institution whose nearly 2,700 students come from most U.S. states and more than 45 countries. Acknowledging its beginning as a teacher’s college, the University sustains excellence in teacher education while continuing to expand offerings in traditional as well as unique fields of study. Programs such as those available through the Delta Music Institute, the Commercial Aviation Department, and the Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information highlight the University’s commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the students it serves with world-leading, industry-acclaimed programs. Situated in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, Delta State offers top-notch academic programs in business, arts, sciences, nursing, education, and more. DSU Athletics has won 14 national championships, 70 conference championships, and 37 regional titles.