

# **EXHIBIT 19**

**From:** "Thornton, Christopher" <cthorton@neh.gov>

**To:** "Kinkela, Claudia" <ckinkela@neh.gov>, "Sack, Daniel" <dsack@neh.gov>

**Subject:** FW: Terminated NEH-JUSFC fellowships

**Date:** Tue, 8 Apr 2025 22:13:31 +0000

**Importance:** Normal

**Inline-Images:** image001.jpg; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png; image006.png

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FYI

**From:** Thornton, Christopher <cthorton@neh.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025 6:07 PM

**To:** Paige cottinghamstreater <pcottinghamstreater@jusfc.gov>; Niharika Chibber Joe <NJoe@jusfc.gov>

**Cc:** Silver, Mark <msilver@neh.gov>; Dennis, Cecily <cydennis@neh.gov>

**Subject:** Terminated NEH-JUSFC fellowships

Dear Paige and Niharika,

I'm sorry to report that despite our best attempts, we have not been able to reinstate the five NEH-JUSFC fellowships terminated by DOGE (per Acting Chairman Michael McDonald). Michael sends his regrets but hopes you understand that this was not an agency decision. Please let Mark and our Director of Acquisitions, Cecily Dennis, know how we can best return the unspent funds to the JUSFC.

On the plus side, Acting Chairman McDonald says he is open to funding NEH-JUSFC fellowships at our November meeting, so the program is still going and we plan to run our competition as usual. That is little comfort to our five terminated fellows, but perhaps we can encourage them to re-apply at the April 23 deadline.

I'm sorry we couldn't bring better news and, obviously, I'm just very disappointed (on many levels). Please let me know if you have any questions and I'm happy to jump on a phone or virtual call.

Best wishes

Chris

**Christopher Thornton, Ph.D.**

Director, Division of Research Programs



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