

ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION GRANT AWARDED

\$745,000

Dr. Theresa Tobin and Marisola Xhelili Ciaccio, PhD candidate in philosophy, are part of a team that received a \$745,000 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant to establish the Education Preparedness Program (EPP). Anchored in the humanities and using collaborative pedagogy, the EPP aims to create a prison to school pipeline by providing education opportunities and support to those directly impacted by incarceration.

In partnership with local and regional correctional facilities, the EPP offers a variety of "blended" courses spanning the humanities and social sciences. The program brings currently and formerly incarcerated (CFI) students together with traditional Marquette undergraduates, and Marquette faculty and graduate students with community experts impacted by incarceration, to foster meaningful relationships and provide transformative education experiences.

Located in the Center for Urban Research Teaching and Outreach (CURTO), the EPP is also creating a wrap-around services hub to meet additional academic and life needs of CFI students, including tutoring, help with employment, and references to housing and healthcare. In partnership with a variety of community organizations, the EPP is re-shaping aims to re-shape the re-entry space in Milwaukee and position Marquette as a central resource for the flourishing of released citizens.

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