

# 2020 Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Training

The recipients of the 2020 Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Training were announced by URTA in October. The awards recognize outstanding work of undergraduate instructors, coaches, mentors, as well as institutions, in the training and preparation of undergraduate theatre artists.

This year's award recipients are:

## Institutions

Acting – Clark Atlanta University

Design & Technology – Western Michigan University

## Individuals

Professor Lonnie Alcaraz, UC, Irvine - Lighting Design & Technology

Adjunct Instructor Katie Curry, Concordia College - Costume Design & Technology

Dr. Eve Graves, Clark Atlanta University - Acting

Instructor Cathia Pagotto, Concordia University - Scenic Design & Technology

Associate Professor David Pierce, Northern Michigan University - Technical Direction

Professor Bill Wallace, Hamline University - Projection/Media Design

URTA acknowledges the important contributions of these instructors and institutions in providing undergraduates with the essential skills needed to prepare for advanced theatre training, and ultimately to take their place in the profession. The two institutions, Clark-Atlanta University and Western Michigan University, will receive Candidate Awards, providing free registration for the URTAs to a student of their choice.

Awardees will be honored during the live-virtual URTAs in January 2021.

"Thank you for this honor," said Western Michigan Theatre Chair Joan Herrington, "and for your recognition of the work of my amazing faculty and staff."

"I sincerely thank URTA for bestowing this great honor on the Department of Theatre and Communication Studies at Clark Atlanta University. Despite the size of our department, we are extremely committed to arts training in higher education," wrote Dept. Chair Dr. Eve Graves, "Clark Atlanta University was the first HBCU to recognize the importance of academic theatre training by offering biannual theatre classes in the late 1800s. Since those first classes in the 1800s we have been determined to elevate African American artistic culture through training and programming."



More than 1,200 candidates pursuing graduate training in theatre take part in the URTA Auditions & Interviews ("the URTAs") each year. The event also includes classes, workshops, and panel discussions on theatre topics of interest to both candidates and recruiters. In 2021, the URTAs will move online for a live-virtual event. •



*Individual award recipients pictured: top row, l to r: Lonnie Alcaraz, Katie Curry, Eve Graves. Bottom, l to r: Cathia Pagotto, David Pierce, Bill Wallace.*

