**Jessica Roman wins the 2023 Tarnai Scholarship Award**

We are pleased to announce that Jessica Roman, Rutgers University - Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling, has been awarded the 2023 Tarnai Scholarship by the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO). Established in memory of John Tarnai, former AASRO president, the award recognizes an outstanding early-career Survey Center employee with great promise for long-term involvement in and contributions to the field of survey research.

Jessica has worked as a full-time research associate at the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP) at Rutgers University since August 2021. She has simultaneously worked on the research, design, and data analysis for statewide polling, client projects, vendor interactions, daily operations including supervision of undergraduate and graduate interns, and scholarly work, all in expert fashion. She has a zest for public opinion’s research role in serving the public good and always wants to use surveys to give voice to those who are often voiceless.

In 2023, Jessica was awarded the Burns “Bud” Roper Fellow Award for early career researchers by the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). She currently sits on the executive board for the Pennsylvania/New Jersey regional AAPOR chapter.

Jessica earned her Master of Public Policy degree from the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University, with a concentration in social and education policy. In previous roles, she conducted research on U.S. social policies and welfare programs in addition to the social and emotional development of children. She has published literature on federal and state welfare programs as well as children’s psychosocial development and well-being.

Jessica enjoys sociopolitical research and is particularly interested in the implications of social, education, and immigration policies. She holds an undergraduate degree in Psychology with a minor in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from The College of New Jersey and has served as an adjunct instructor in the Psychology Department at TCNJ.

AASRO applauds Ms. Roman’s many contributions to her center, their clients and students, and encourages her to continue her excellent work in the survey research field.

**Obafemi Ogunleye wins the 2023 Tarnai Scholarship Award**

We are pleased to announce that Obafemi Ogunleye, University of Minnesota Office of Measurement, has been awarded the 2023 Tarnai Scholarship by the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO). Established in memory of John Tarnai, former AASRO president, the award recognizes an outstanding early-career Survey Center employee with great promise for long-term involvement in and contributions to the field of survey research.

Obafemi “Femi” Ogunleye is a Project Manager with the University of Minnesota Survey and Assessment Services (USAS) (formerly Office of Measurement Services).  He has a Master’s in Education with a focus on evaluation and is currently pursuing his PhD in comparative evaluation.  Femi has been with USAS since June 2022.  Previous to this time he served as a Graduate Research Assistant with USAS on the Grand Challenges Research Initiative (GCRI) where, among other things, he conducted face-to-face interviews with Division Heads, implemented a large online survey in Qualtrics, co-facilitated focus groups with Principal Investigators, analyzed reports, and worked with a larger FTE team to produce a large report outlining the benefits and costs involved in maintaining such a program and ultimately making a recommendation to continue the Grand Challenges at the university.   In just over one year with USAS he has made in-depth contributions to important University of Minnesota research projects as well as external projects.  In addition, he has gained in-depth technical expertise in Nvivo and Qualtrics and applied these tools to his projects.  Examples of projects he has already managed or played an integral role in include a large qualitative research study for NYU regarding information technology stakeholder feedback and needs, numerous schools in the Student Experience at the Research University (SERU) and gradSERU Consortium project, strategic planning focus groups, analysis, and reporting for the Office of Student Affairs (OSA), Post Graduation Survey (PGS) with a focus on career readiness and student success, and a project at the  Minnesota State Fair Driven to Discover booth for the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics.  In addition to his qualitative and online work, Femi has also overseen a telephone survey, served on the North American SERU survey team, and began learning R.  In all of his project work he has displayed a stellar commitment to best research practices, producing quality survey data, and advancing the goals, mission, stability, and longevity of the survey organization.  He has also displayed commitment to these goals through his membership in the Minnesota Evaluation Association (MEA) and attendance at a comparative evaluation conference in 2022.

AASRO wishes Mr. Ogunleye continuing success and looks toward his future accomplishment in the survey research field.