STUDENTS LEAD

SCULPTOR.
SOCIAL HEALER.
MATERIAL GIRL.

Picture a stereotypical artist – brooding, introspective, toiling alone in tortured, isolated silence.

But meet sculptor and Master of Fine Arts student Kara Renfro, and that image disappears forever. Her glowing, light-filled installations are fresh and buoyant, much like her personality. Her advisers praise her "compassion, patience and insight" in working with undergraduate students. Soon, hospital patients may benefit from her cheerful willingness to buck convention.

Renfro is part of an international team of artists, architects and industrial designers creating a prototypical patient room that is more functional as well as more conducive to healing. "I'm experimenting with translucence," explains Renfro, "and lighting that elevates patient mood."

For Renfro, collaboration is key to creativity, but financial support plays a role, too: "Art is directly related to material costs," she says of her installations, which often incorporate Plexiglas®, wood and fabrics. "You have to choose – do I do what's most effective or do I cut costs?"

Leading Student Engagement

Clemson's success and its rise to become a top-20 public institution rests on attracting and retaining bright, driven graduate students who want the best and most fulfilling graduate education possible. These students seek cutting-edge research opportunities, one-on-one faculty engagement and creative enrichment programs, which are attributes that define the Clemson Experience. Bringing the best and brightest to Clemson is our top priority, and fellowship offerings are key.

The Reality

Dwindling public funding, the global economic climate and more people pursuing master's and doctoral degrees have created an urgency for additional fellowships.

Fellowships make graduate education possible for talented students and attract the nation's most aspiring, as colleges that offer fellowship packages are typically able to tip the scales when graduates are choosing a school.

Without adequate funding for graduate financial support, Clemson often loses these capable future leaders to other schools whose fellowship endowments are far greater. Moreover, the state of South Carolina misses opportunities to keep these bright graduates and their economic impact in our home state.

The Need

Clemson University needs to raise private funding for fellowships in order to attract the best graduate students to our University and to help these promising world-changers have an opportunity to gain a higher education.

The Impact

Increasing Clemson's fellowship endowment will allow the University to compete with the best graduate programs in the nation. With this funding, Clemson will be positioned to:

- Recruit the nation's most talented graduate students and enable them to focus on critical thinking, problem solving and research.
- Attract and retain leading researchers and eminent faculty, who are drawn to rigorous graduate programs, helping to boost Clemson into the top 20.
- Develop a knowledgeable and skilled work force, which will fuel the economy.
- Make its graduate programs competitive with other top-20 institutions.

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY