**Prottoy A. Akbar of the University of Pittsburgh to Receive the 19th Annual Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science**

Prottoy A. Akbar, a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at the University of Pittsburgh, has been selected as the winner of the Nineteenth Annual Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science. The Fellowship will provide a 2019–2020 Academic Year stipend of $30,000 to support Mr. Akbar in his dissertation research entitled, “Public Transit Accessibility and Income Segregation.”

The research will investigate how the scale and location of mass transit services within urban travel networks in the U.S. affect residential segregation and long-term accessibility gains by income. The results will be of interest to policymakers around the world as Mr. Akbar considers how improvements in urban transit would need to be distributed across space in order to minimize residential segregation or to maximize accessibility.

Mr. Akbar’s doctoral research is supervised by Professor Randall Walsh, Professor of Economics at the University of Pittsburgh and a Research Associate with the National Bureau of Economic Research.

In addition to selecting the Fellowship recipient, the Selection Committee identified three applicants as meriting special recognition as finalists in the 19th Annual Competition: Xiaodi Li, Ph.D. Student in New York University’s Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, supervised by Ingrid Gould Ellen; Gary Lin, Ph.D. student in Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University, supervised by Nancy Chau and Ravi Kanbur; and Louis Sears, Ph.D. Student in Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University, supervised by C.-Y. Cynthia Lin Lawell.

The 19th competition winner and finalists will be recognized at the awards banquet luncheon of the upcoming November 13–16, 66th North American Meetings of the RSAI in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Fellowship is awarded in memory of Dr. Benjamin H. Stevens, an intellectual leader whose selfless devotion to graduate students as teacher, advisor, mentor, and friend continues to have a profound impact on the field of regional science. Fundraising efforts to increase the Fellowship’s endowment are ongoing. Donations should be sent to: The Stevens Fellowship Fund, First Financial Bank, Attn. Trust Department, 1205 S. Neil Street, Champaign, IL 61820 USA. Checks should be drawn to The Stevens Fellowship Fund. Donations may also be made by credit card through the NARSC website at [www.narsc.org/newsite/donations2.php](http://www.narsc.org/newsite/donations2.php).

The 2019 Stevens Fellowship Selection Committee is composed of: Amanda Weinstein, Economics, The University of Akron (Chair); Daoqin Tong, Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, Arizona State University; Mario Polèse, Urban and Regional Economics, Université du Québec; Elizabeth Mack, Geography, Michigan State University; and Nicholas Nagle, Geography, University of Tennessee. The Stevens Fellowship Committee administrates the Stevens Fellowship Fund on behalf of the North American Regional Science Council; its members are: Tony Smith, Chair; David Plane, Secretary; Michael Lahr, Treasurer; Janet Kohlhase; and Neil Reid, Executive Director of NARSC.

The Committee thanks the 19 students who entered the competition in 2019, as well as their dissertation supervisors. Faculty at all North American Ph.D. programs related to the interdisciplinary field of Regional Science are urged to encourage their best students to apply for the Twentieth Annual Stevens Graduate Regional Science Fellowship. The winning student’s dissertation research in the field of Regional Science will be supported during the 2020–2021 year with a one-year stipend of $30,000. The application deadline is February 15, 2020. Full submission guidelines will be posted at <http://www.narsc.org/newsite/awards-prizes/applications/>

May 2019