



UNIVERSITY OF
KING'S
COLLEGE • HALIFAX

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

Master of Fine Arts
in Creative Nonfiction

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King's hires first mentor apprentice to address under-representation from marginalized communities

Halifax | The University of King's College has hired Wanda Taylor as its first mentor apprentice in the [Master of Fine Arts \(MFA\) in Creative Nonfiction](#) program.

“Wanda brings a range of experience as a writer and acquisitions editor who is deeply engaged in creating space for stories from Nova Scotia's marginalized communities,” says Kim Pittaway, executive director, King's MFA in Creative Nonfiction. “As an author, she has explored both historic and current issues related to Nova Scotia's Black communities. As an editor, she is commissioning works on a range of subjects and has a demonstrated commitment to amplifying voices from a range of backgrounds.”

In addition to a King's journalism degree, Taylor also has degrees in social work and early childhood education, and a master of education. She is acquisitions editor for Formac Publishing and the former executive director of Stepping Stone Association in Halifax. Her nonfiction books include *Adult Talk* (Fierce Ink Press), *Birchtown and the Black Loyalists* (Nimbus Publishing), *Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children: The Hurt, the Hope, and the Healing* (Nimbus Press) and the forthcoming *It's Our Time* (Nimbus Publishing). She has also published a play, a novel and a young adult novel. You can read her full profile at ukingscommunity.ca.

Because of past inequities and systemic bias, King's wanted to expand opportunities for early-career writers and editors from marginalized communities to develop their teaching and mentoring skills through the mentor apprenticeship. The nine-month 2018/19 position was open to applicants who are early-career professional writers or editors of nonfiction from traditionally marginalized communities including writers/editors of Indigenous, African-Nova Scotian, POC, LGBTQ2+, disability or low-income backgrounds. King's is grateful for a two-year funding commitment to this apprenticeship made possible as part of a larger gift from the John and Judy Bragg Family Foundation.

It's an effort to redress an imbalance, Pittaway says. “But the interaction isn't one-way: we know that writers and editors from marginalized communities bring insights—about writing, about issues related to their specific communities, and about their own specific writing and editing interests—that will enrich the conversations we as a group will have through our residencies and the rest of the year.”

Taylor says she hopes to add to students' ways of looking at their writing and expanding their perspectives, and to help them think about how the people in their stories are affected by the places

and spaces they occupy. “I also hope to share my insights around diversity and inclusivity in creative writing,” she says.

She’ll be shadowing mentors as they work with students, and will be involved in all faculty conversations and meetings. She’ll also work with cohort directors Dean Jobb and Stephen Kimber, develop a lecture, attend the New York residency in January, and write a paper about mentoring/writing which she will share with MFA team when her term ends in April 2019.

Taylor says her time in the journalism program at King’s, combined with past experience in leadership roles and teaching adults, her work as an author, and her 20-plus years working on the ground—particularly around social issues and the human condition—have prepared her to assume this new role.

“I anticipate it will be a thrilling ride,” Taylor says.

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About the University of King’s College

Established in 1789, King’s College is Canada’s oldest chartered university. A small and extraordinarily lively academic community located in Halifax, Nova Scotia, King’s is known nationally and internationally for its highly acclaimed interdisciplinary programs in the humanities and journalism, including our Master of Fine Arts in Creative Non-Fiction.

For more information and to arrange interviews, please contact:

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