

For Immediate Release

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Simmons MFA Candidate Genielsse Reyes Receives Lee & Low and Friends Scholarship

February 14, 2019 (BOSTON) – Simmons University announced today that Genielsse Reyes has been awarded the Lee & Low and Friends Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded annually to provide financial support to students from diverse backgrounds who are participating in Simmons’ prestigious children’s literature graduate program.

The scholarship was created through a unique partnership between children’s publisher [Lee & Low Books](#) and the Center for the Study of Children’s Literature, which is part of the Gwen Ifill College for Media, Arts, and Humanities at [Simmons University](#). Reyes becomes the fourth awardee of the Lee & Low and Friends Scholarship since its founding in 2015.

Reyes is a native of San Diego and is enrolled in the MFA in Writing for Children at Simmons. She expects to receive her degree in May 2020 and aspires to become a professor of creative writing. She says she draws inspiration from her brother, Marco, who has autism. “When we were younger, we mainly communicated through storytelling, which is such a meaningful form of communication,” she said. “You combine both the joy of imagination and the importance of empathy, and those values are universal.”

“Genielsse’s interest in creating children’s literature that represents diverse perspectives and honors so many of the details of her own background empowers children by helping them see themselves and their own stories in the books they read,” said Ifill College Dean Brian Norman. “We are so proud of Genielsse and all she brings to Simmons.”

“As the Lee & Low and Friends Scholarship enters its third year, it is an honor for us to continue to help in providing financial support to talented students with an interest in children’s book publishing as a career,” said Jason Low, Publisher/Co-owner of Lee & Low Books.

The Center for the Study of Children’s Literature at Simmons supports the advancement of the study of children’s and young adult literature through nationally recognized partnerships and graduate programs. The Department of Children’s Literature at Simmons University offers the nation’s first Master of Arts in Children’s Literature and Master of Fine Arts: Writing for Children programs and offers several innovative dual degree options as well.

About Simmons University

Simmons University (www.simmons.edu) is a nationally recognized private university located in the heart of Boston. Founded as a women's college in 1899, Simmons is dedicated to innovative teaching and engaged learning. Simmons University offers the only undergraduate program for women in Boston and numerous graduate programs open to all. Follow Simmons on Twitter at [@SimmonsUniv](https://twitter.com/SimmonsUniv) and [@SimmonsNews](https://twitter.com/SimmonsNews), and on Linked In at <https://www.linkedin.com/school/simmons-university/>.

About Lee & Low Books

Established in 1991, Lee & Low Books is the largest children's book publisher in the United States specializing in diversity. Under several imprints, the company provides a comprehensive range of notable diverse books for beginning readers through young adults.