

SIUE graduate Dr. Mark Neels wins Hay-Nicolay prize

March 27 2017 3:43 PM



EDWARDSVILLE - Mark Neels, PhD, a 2015 graduate of the SIUE and Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) cooperative doctoral program in historical studies, has been presented the Hay-Nicolay Dissertation Prize by the Abraham Lincoln Association (ALA) and the Abraham Lincoln Institute, Inc. (ALI).

The prize recognizes and encourages young scholars to conduct research on Abraham Lincoln and his times, and includes a \$1,000 award. Neels' dissertation entitled *Lincoln's Conservatives: Conservative Unionism and Political Tradition in the Civil War Era* was written under co-chairs Kay Carr, PhD, of SIUC, and SIUE's Jason Stacy, PhD, associate professor of historical studies, with support from Erik Alexander, PhD, assistant professor of historical studies at SIUE.

“Congratulations to our stellar co-op doctoral graduate Dr. Mark Neels on this momentous achievement,” said Carole Collier Frick, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Historical Studies in the SIUE College of Arts and Sciences. “We were always impressed with Mark’s enthusiasm for work, his positive attitude to life and his seemingly boundless energy. This is an award well deserved.”

Neels was also an adjunct professor in the SIUE Department of Historical Studies in 2014-15.

Neels is listed online with [past dissertation prizewinners](#) as selected by the ALA and ALI. He presented his work at the ALI meeting on March 18 at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, D.C.

Central to SIUE’s exceptional and comprehensive education, the [College of Arts and Sciences](#) has 19 departments and 85 areas of study. More than 300 full-time faculty /instructors deliver classes to more than 8,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Faculty help students explore diverse ideas and experiences, while learning to think and live as fulfilled, productive members of the global community. Study abroad, service-learning, internships, and other experiential learning opportunities better prepare SIUE students not only to succeed in our region's workplaces, but also to become valuable leaders who make important contributions to our communities.