



Ridgway Forum Fellows, 2014

Tatyana Benson

Tatyana, “Taty” is seeking a double major at Hamline in Sociology and Criminal Justice. She works with and on behalf of young people in a number of venues and, in the words of Shelly Shaefer, is “destined to be a great community leader and advocate for youth.” Taty has already represented Hamline University at the National Consortium for Undergraduate Research and stands for Hamline’s values in her commitment to working for social justice and social change. Taty plans to use the Ridgway award funds to help pay for her summer school attendance at the School for Unity and Liberation (SOUL). SOUL is offering an intensive 8-week introduction to community organizing and social change, a program dedicated to building the leadership skills of diverse young people engaged in social justice work.

Rachael Mills

Nominated by Professor Colleen Bell, Rachael is an intelligent, thoughtful, and motivated individual whose actions reflect not only a strong analytical mind but also a passion for justice and an ability to turn understanding and learning into action. She is committed to rigorous scientific work and to the deeply human questions of justice and mercy. As a Biology and Social Justice major, one specific goal of Rachael's is inspire youth of color and queer youth to find their place in STEM fields. Rachael also serves as an RA on the LGBT and Social Justice floor, which she helped to create, the student organization FUSION, and her volunteer work at Breaking Free, a St. Paul nonprofit established to help women leave prostitution. She also serves as a volunteer child care manager at Breaking Free where many of the same skills of listening and communicating across difference are necessary.

Heleanna Mathioudis

Since she came to Hamline in 2011, Heleanna, “Eleanna” has demonstrated a love of learning, a commitment to civic engagement, and a strong desire to make a difference in the world. Most recently, she represented the university as both a delegate and chair at National Model United Nations. She has been the editor-in-chief of *Fulcrum* Art and Literary Journal of HU, worked as a resident assistant, and collaborated with faculty as both a student researcher and a teaching apprentice. Eleanna is a strong student and, in the words of her nominators has an “exceptional ability to synthesize a variety of perspectives and to make objective arguments about some of the most controversial topics in International Relations, and ... the Middle East.”

(Nominators: Binnur Ozkececi-Taner, Leila DeVries, Karen Vogel)