NATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

» National Community Scholars gain skills to organize groups for social action, plan programs at the local level, advocate for socially just policies and develop community-based services.

» The National Community Scholars Program prepares professionals to enable young people and adult allies to create community change.

PROGRAM FUNDING

» Nonresident Student: $10,000/semester ($40,000 total)

» Resident Student: $5,000/semester ($20,000 total)

APPLICATION DEADLINES

» December 1 (early)

» February 1 (priority)

» March 1

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“I had a great opportunity to see how community organizing varies according to the area. I was doing anti-incarceration work with immigrants and working toward policies that reduced sentences. The biggest difference I noticed is that in Detroit, incarceration is still seen as the fault of the individual person and less as the fault of the systems, whereas in the Bay Area, it’s framed as a human rights issue. From an organizing perspective, the Bay Area is more socially progressive, so the issues that we’re just now raising in Detroit are already being addressed in California.”

During her field placement in California, Maria focused on community reinvestment, and had an opportunity to do some lobbying and policy tracking. She learned that changing policy is very complicated with a lot of moving parts, and while coalition building is difficult, it is vital to policy change. She saw first-hand that the measurement of success comes with small steps to reach an ideal community.

Maria Ibarra-Frayre loves the advantage of the National Community Scholars Program because she was required to have a summer field placement outside the Ann Arbor area and have an emphasis on community building and a focus on youth.

“I was surprised by the differences; and it was a very fast learning curve with a new way of thinking ... I wouldn’t have had that if my field placements were only in the Detroit area.”