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)

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A philosophy and set of practices known as restorative justice is increasingly being used in schools across the country as an alternative to punitive discipline or “zero tolerance” policies. Restorative justice moves away from shame and punishment and focuses instead on repairing the harm that’s been caused by bringing all sides into a healing discussion.

University of Michigan alum Brielle Siskin (MSW ’13) is a restorative justice specialist with UMOJA Student Development Corporation, an on-the-ground partner of Chicago’s public schools and districts.

“I was very passionate about the type of work that was taking place in Chicago with regard to restorative justice practices in the public school system,” says Brielle. “I approached my professors, Katie Richards-Schuster and Barry Checkoway, who advocated for me and made it happen. Katie and Barry were always so supportive of me. I’m from Boston and didn’t have family close by. There was a real spirit of collaboration and trust amongst all of us and they became my second family.”

“I feel lucky knowing that I made lifelong friends while I was at U-M.”