

Alexandra Zacks
AAUW of Michigan
Student Advisory Council Member
2016-17

Bio



My name is Alexandra Zacks, I am a Global and International Studies student at Western Michigan University in my third year. Growing up, I have always seen inequities between men and women but have always just accepted it because that was what was taught within my family and community. As I have grown older, I have learned that this is not the case and even as one single voice speaking out against these things, it can still be heard. Learning about AAUWMI, I was excited because the organization brings light to many issues that have been swept under the rug and pushed aside.

As a member of the U.S Army and a student enrolled in the ROTC program at Western, I have seen firsthand affirmative action impacting women all around the United States in the armed services. As well as seeing affirmative action in the military, I have had the opportunity to travel and see women impacted by this all around the world, in both developing countries and developed countries. Although many areas are continuing to evolve and reform to include women in all opportunities available to men, there is still a very long way to go in many areas. For the past few months, I have had the opportunity to intern in an organization that works internationally with women that have been sold into human trafficking. This internship has had a huge impact in the way that I look at human rights as well as it has brought light to the major problem of that in many cases the women are blamed for the situations that they were in and their family name is tainted because of an unfortunate situation that had nothing to do with the actions of the women themselves, in many cases.

I believe that being involved in an organization such as The American Associate of University Women of Michigan and serving on the Student Advisory Council is crucial in order to make an impact on issues such as these at this stage in my life. This would be a wonderful opportunity to shed a different view on issues that many

women in the surrounding areas may not have had firsthand experience with. I believe that my skills of communication, organization and planning as well as my prior experiences with travels and military service makes me an excellent candidate for a position on the Student Advisory Council. Throughout college, I have had many opportunities to grow in my leadership abilities. In ROTC, a fully student run organization, different positions of leadership are held by juniors interacting with younger cadets every day. Through teaching classes, weekly meetings and workouts three times a week, I have had the opportunity to help younger cadets grow in their knowledge as well as become more confident in their abilities to lead others. I currently hold the highest level of leadership for my junior class at Western's ROTC program, having been elected into this position by my peers and full time cadre that works within Western's battalion.

Having the chance to be a part of AAUWMI's Student Advisory Council would give me an opportunity to meet women throughout the area that have similar passions and goals. I hope to gain new contacts and grow within myself to become a better and more knowledgeable leader within our community while learning about methods to help impact many issues that women face all over the world.