

KeyVonna Taylor
2016-17 Student Advisory Council Member

Leadership is crucial in shaping an environment. In a college setting it is important to have individuals who can contribute to making a positive impact and be a voice for those around them. I have a well-rounded set of skills and qualities that make me a great candidate as a Student Advisory Council Ambassador through AAUWMI.

I am entering my senior year at Oakland University as a journalism major, communication minor and Women's Track and Field athlete. My desire to become a journalist started in 2014 covering college athletics and other subjects for Grand Central Magazine, Central Michigan University's online publication. Today, I am a freelance writer and photographer as well as, a contributor for the Oakland Post, OU's Independent Student Newspaper.

Beyond possessing the ability to write, I have a non-profit background from holding numerous positions through the Saginaw Community Foundation in the past as a FORCE member, secretary, co-president and an executive board member. I also have communication, team-oriented, and leadership skills.

A memorable leadership moment I experienced occurred the past two summers. I have worked at Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan (GSHOM) as camp counselor/facilitator. My responsibilities relied on counseling and overseeing more than 600 girls over both summers. I provided supervision during the 2015 and 2016 Girl Scout Camp that was held in Linden, Michigan for 3 days and 2 nights in August. As I worked for this organization I found my greatest strengths developing such as assisting other counselors/facilitators and being a liable source for tasks that were given. Overall, being apart of Girls Scouts Heart of Michigan staff empowered qualities I carry today and broke down barriers of comfort I developed over the years. I have learned a lot from being a camp counselor/facilitator and hold the memories of the wonderful girls I grew to love today. The emphasis of young girls and women being valued in today's society is imperative.

Gender inequality is a human right amongst everyone but is not adequately displayed. There are many problems that still exist today. Three standout issues surrounding equality are education, work, and athletics. Women do not have equal opportunities as men in these three categories amongst many. These areas are important to me because there are many countries where women lack an education in regards of safety, social and cultural. This is more common in India, Cambodia and Afghanistan. Additionally, in some work environments men receive higher pay then women. Finally, males have dominate roles in sports such as football and basketball, they receive more attention and support but women work just as hard if not harder in some instances and deserve equal encouragement.

Therefore, after reviewing the AAUWMI Student Advisory Council explanation, I am confident my skills and experiences of being a student-athlete along with my abilities/willingness to work and learn in a team-oriented environment, my passion for helping others and being a leader make me a great asset to the AAUWMI Student Advisory Council.