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Newman Civic Fellows



Growing up I saw people from my local community hold protests against the violence in our city. I saw people of all ages speak up against the violence occurring around us. I didn't realize that it affected me so much until my cousin was murdered when I was fourteen years old. I didn't understand why hatred filled the hearts of young people. As I grew older, I realized that I had to use my voice for the people who didn't have one. I learned that most people are a product of their environment, whether it be negative or positive. On campus, I organized a Black Lives Matter demonstration in which many students and faculty stood in solidarity with the Black lives lost due to police brutality and casual violence.

Jasmine Babineaux
Business Management and English Creative
Writing double major: Class of 2019

I began to understand the complexity of immigration and the importance of advocacy through a human-centric lens while volunteering at a Hispanic resource center in high school. Since then, I've translated legal paperwork to provide notarized plans for undocumented families. Appreciating the beauty of language while acknowledging the isolation it created inspired me to work toward building connections and expanding resources where language barriers result in health disparities. Now, I'm exploring the relationship of biodiversity and malnutrition for rural populations in the Andes region, and will examine the similar pressures of socio-economic status and language barriers on quality of care in the U.S.

Elisha Jaeke
Biology and Spanish: Class of 2020



With our newfound community, The Council of Indigenous Peoples, I have exciting plans for the future. To address the lack of higher education on reservations, I intend to present to high schoolers from various tribes in Wisconsin. I want to make it known to them that higher education is possible, that they can attain higher education through hard work and dedication. Also, I want to reinstitute a day on campus where Native American high schoolers are invited on campus so that they may come to know what higher education is.

Ruthie Tucker
Elementary Education: Class of 2022

