ROCXXY: Summer Internship in Feminist Activism and Leadership

Rocxxxy (pronounced “Roxie”) is an 8-week summer program for undergraduate students coordinated by the Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women's Studies (SBAI) and funded through the Institute, a Community Action Grant from the American Association of University Women, and the Susan B. Anthony Center for Women’s Leadership. The program combines a professional internship experience with guest speakers, field trips to historic sites, and readings and reflections on feminist activism and leadership. This combination of academic, experiential, and professional experiences is meant to inspire and equip students to become stronger, more prepared leaders for social change.

In 2013, a pilot of the program was launched with four students. Brianna Isaacson was busy ensuring that Girls Rock! Rochester Summer Camp has a successful summer program, while she also worked for SAFER (Students Active for Ending Rape) Campus. Alysha Alani did research and coding with the Susan B. Anthony Center for Women’s Leadership that helped to impact the center’s mission and goals. Alexandra Poindexter, with Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region, and Quinlan Mitchell, with the Genesee Valley Chapter of the NY Civil Liberties Union, work hard for women’s equality by doing community organizing around Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s 10-Point NY Women’s Equality Agenda.

This summer a cohort of eight students worked for 20-25 hours per week for the 8-week summer semester, May 19th-July 13th. Rocxxxy interns Margaret Speer and Christian Nelson worked on the Women’s Equality Agenda at The Genesee Valley Chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union while Jenny Hernandez worked on similar project at Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York. Sarah Pisaniello worked on a new marketing campaign at Alternatives for Battered Women. Addison Ault worked to end human trafficking through the Safe Harbor program at The Center For Youth. Darya Nicol was busy recruiting volunteers for the Rochester Pride Parade through the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley. Oluwatobi Abubakare worked on research and student involvement at the Young Women's College Prep Charter School. Last but not least, Madalina Ciocanu worked on teaching young girls in Rochester leadership skills through music at Girls Rock! Rochester Summer Camp.

As this year comes to a close we are already preparing for summer 2015! In the mean time you can read more about Rocxxxy in forthcoming book Feminist Community Engagement: Achieving Praxis, on the SBAI blog (http://blogs.rochester.edu/SBAI/) or website (http://www.rochester.edu/College/WST/undergrad/Rocxxxy.html).