Mahatma Gandhi once said, “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” I want to see the world as a place where we accept one another despite artificial, philosophical, or economical differences. I address issues of diversity by becoming involved and being an advocate for students. I am involved in an array of on-campus student organizations and professional/academic organizations, including Student Government Association, Excellence in Leadership Ambassador, Commuter Ambassador, and Psi Chi National Honorary, to name a few. Within these organizations I make it a purpose and mission to be someone who represents the acceptance of diversity. I strive to make it a point to be accepting of others and to always try to see things from the person’s perspective. In my community I have worked with the Muncie Area Boys and Girls Club, Union Chapel Ministries, and Second Harvest Food Bank. I believe becoming involved in the community can help address diversity issues. When people are volunteering for a cause that they are passion about, I believe that often bridges the differences in race, religion, gender, and sex. Community service as a whole, allows society work together towards a common goal, which is not only beneficial to them, but it also represents that fact that no matter where you come from, you can find common goals.

I am a black student who is originally from a small island in the Caribbean named Dominica. I was raised to appreciate people for their differences and to look at the content of their character. While working within my community, minority students get to see what they can truly be. When volunteering at Boys and Girls Club, I stressed the importance on education and acceptance of others. The combination of the two high schools in the Muncie Community left these students being unwilling to accept one other. I pointed out that as a university student I work an array of people, and the best way to solve these problems is keeping your mind open to others. Within the university, as I said before I am member of many student organizations. As a member of a PHC sorority, which is predominantly a Caucasian sorority, I faced a lot of questions from my peers. I am an advocate for students who want to break the mold, and be a part of something even though it is not always socially accepted. I am an advocate for the bond between African American and Caucasian students by showing them that just because you are a member of a certain racial group; it does not mean you cannot venture outside of that. If a Caucasian student wants to join an NPHC fraternity or sorority or an African American student wants to become a
part of the Latino Student Union, they should be able to and be embraced for their drive to engage in diverse organizations. Also, I am commuter ambassador, which allows me mentor incoming freshmen from wide backgrounds. Many of these students have a hard time adjusting to the campus, but I serve as guide. I make it my mission to help these find where they belong on campus whether that is through social organization, academic organization, or just putting everything into their academics.

These activities impact my personal development, because I truly believe that diversity is important in all aspects of life. America was founded on the goal of individuals trying to find freedom to practice what they believed in, and I believe that people should be able to do that now. As a student and a human-being, I try my best to be accepting of the things I may not understand. Even though I do not always agree with people’s views, ideas, lifestyle, or etc. it is still important to try to understand them and accept them for who they are. The first step to solving diversity issues is the acknowledgement of the differences and then the acceptance of it.

In the upcoming year, I will be the secretary for the Student Government Association. Within that I will be working with the other members of the executive board to – bring the internationally known, No Hate campaign to campus, work with the Multicultural Center increase diversity awareness through various programs, and to create a scholarship for incoming freshman to attend summer abridge programs. Also, I plan to continue to working within the community at Union Chapel Ministries, the Boys and Girls Club, and Second Harvest Food Bank. I believe that learning the importance of diversity is crucial at a young age, so continuing my work within the community, I can raise awareness to diversity issues to youth.

Mahatma Ghandi was great man who stood for social justice in a way that many could not; he stood peacefully. Being the change you wish to see in the world can be done by just being an advocate. I truly hope that when I leave this university that people remember me as someone who was an advocate for others and did so with grace, peace, and acceptance.