

Change for the Better

Public affairs student Natalie Clayton leads by example.

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Transcript

[N. Clayton] My involvement with civic engagement has definitely got me to the major that I'm in today, which is public affairs. So that focuses on government and non-profits, and I think from there it just really has meshed together. And it's made me the person I am today, and the person that I'm going to continue to be.

I'm going to continue to be civically engaged and involved in my community and in politics because I feel that's my responsibility. Without the scholarship, the Sam H. Jones, I don't think I would have, really, made such great connections. Today I feel like I am even able to educate and influence others, so that makes me really proud.

I think everyone in my life is really proud, and I think they're proud of all the things I've done up until now. I think that this award has really just made me realize that yeah, I am making a difference, and the things I'm doing are worthwhile. I know my family is really proud of me. They're always proud. Patty was really proud when I told her about it. I love to see the excitement from her, so that made me really happy.

I think that everyone is really proud, and this award is really good for people to receive because it is something that makes people feel like they have made a difference, and to be recognized for that is really important.

[P. Matthison] I'm really excited that Natalie has been recognized for all the work that she has done here at IUPUI as well as the Indianapolis Community. When I think of Natalie, I think of just a genuine warmth and compassion for others. I think, it's part of her drive, her compassion, and her charismatic attitude that make her such a dynamic leader. It's well deserved for this award.

She's actually been with our program for the past four years. From her freshman year until she graduates, she will have been with the Sam H. Jones Scholarship Program. She serves right now as our Service Corps mentor. She leads 15 other scholars in leading and planning service events for the Indianapolis, for the IUPUI community. She leads and designs workshops, she's led training for each of the scholars and then she participates in community service events as well.

In our office she created the new accountability program for our scholars and has just really changed our program for the better.