Ketner Emerging Leaders Updates
2019-2020 Cohort

MAKAYLA COOK

Last year I became involved with Planned Parenthood when the organization was focused on electing officials that would protect reproductive rights. Eventually, we moved to our main goal for the campus: starting a Planned Parenthood Generation Action chapter at CofC. As of March, we are official! So far, we’ve spoken at local rallies, attended a pro-choice rally in Columbia, tabled and spoken with Greek life, hosted a letter writing party to encourage a helpful birth control bill, made numerous calls, letters, and emails to protest the fetal heartbeat bill, and worked with The Black Student Union to raise awareness about sexual assault. This coming semester I will be president of PPGA and will continue to fight for reproductive rights.

TANNER CRUNELLE

It’s becoming clearer: our success is mutually interdependent. Seeing our CofC community as just that—a community—means that the connections we have are among our greatest assets. I have used the experience of serving on the Honor Board to help our institution articulate what Restorative Justice looks like for our campus. I am relatedly co-leading a team of students in an interdisciplinary study to catalogue intersectional experiences of racism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia on campus. Also, I have been leading a group of leaders (student, staff, faculty, and community) to launch an “Out Front Initiative” at CofC, geared towards supporting LGBTQ+ student activism and success. I am continuing my work in the Interfaith Youth Core Coach program, presenting at the National Women’s Studies Association conference in November, and organizing the inaugural student caucus of the Association of American Colleges and Universities’ annual conference (March 2020) on Diversity, Equity, and Student Success.
to help update ECDC’s website and digital presence, as well as work towards the creation of an app to connect neighborhood residents and local government officials.

**SYDNEY DAVIS**

My on-campus project has been bringing Planned Parenthood Generation Action (PPGA) to CofC. I have continued collaborating to grow Eastside Red, the initiative to distribute sanitary packages to homeless women in the Eastside. And we are exploring SC-based grants to help grow this project. I helped the ECDC plan and facilitate their Stop the Violence day, January 2019. I am also on the board to plan the upcoming Stop the Violence Day for the 2019-2020 school year, as well as Unity Day of Fun. I want to learn basic programming.

**KIONNE EPPS**

This year, I organized Let’s Talk About Sex, an event to engage in open discussion about how college students’ past and present sexual activities and decisions impact our futures. Approximately 75 students attended the event and over 400 students were tested for STIs that day. After reading our College Reads book, The Hate U Give, my sorority hosted a talkback with the Avery Research Center to discuss topics such as police brutality, code switching, colorism, race, and stereotypes in the Black community. I also have been volunteering at Palmetto Community Action Partnership, a human services organization, which focuses on decreasing poverty in the Tri-County area. And, I served as a M.O.V.E. (Multicultural Overnight Visit Experience) Host, an initiative where high school students visit CofC in an effort to recruit and retain more minority students at the College of Charleston.

**JASMINE SHABAZZ**

I, alongside other student activists, spent numerous hours working with various senior administrators to implement solutions and resolutions to a racist incident that happened on campus. This primarily included the implementation of a diversity module that will be used for the first time Fall 2019. I also acted as the Student Government Association Diversity Liaison in which I organized a diversity town hall to give students a platform for voicing concerns and asking questions to senior administrators pertaining to campus acts of bigotry, more inclusive spaces, and increasing accessibility for students with disabilities. I am working on an LGBTQ+-focused junior and senior project that will establish a mentoring program with alumni and current students belonging to the LGBTQ+ community. The mentorship program will be established through the Safe Zone Committee with a student-led LGBTQ+ centered organization, PRISM.