

2016 Browne Fellows



Elizabeth Bina

Major: Biological Sciences

Certificate: Community health assessment

“As a biology major looking to work in the field of public health, I understand the value of working within a community to begin to incite change. Growing up in a small-town environment taught me how beneficial the feeling of community can be, and I look forward to the challenge this fellowship will present as we work in Pittsburgh to ensure that every citizen can feel that sense of community.”



Jennifer Cortes

Major: Bioengineering

Minor: Chemistry

Certificate: Honors

“I applied to the Browne Leadership Fellows Program because I wanted to learn the skills necessary for community development and social work that are independent of discipline and that fight social injustice. I believe these skills will be invaluable now and as I pursue a career in health care since the definition of health includes physical, mental, and social well-being. The Pittsburgh community is very dear to me and I look forward to contributing to the Pittsburgh community as a Browne Fellow.”



Dominic DiSanto

Majors: Neuroscience, History, and Philosophy of Science

Minor: Chemistry

"I enjoy investing myself in to my communities and always lending a hand to my neighbors. I plan to continue my passion for humanitarian work through undergraduate to graduate school and in my career. Whether I work in medicine, research, or another discipline, I plan to live my life striving to improve my community and help others. The Browne Fellowship program allows me to begin living for my passion by helping me dive into a collaborative effort to better myself through bettering Pittsburgh."



Thomas Dolan

Majors: Politics and Philosophy

"As someone interested in law school, I applied to the Browne Fellowship program because I want to learn about the intricacies of civic engagement by helping people at the local level. I want to take the experience I gain from helping people in Pittsburgh's communities and apply it in a meaningful way in my future profession. A thorough knowledge of how communities work and how people can be helped through a concerted volunteer effort is necessary to becoming a successful in any field. And since my ultimate goal is to improve local communities by becoming a municipal lawyer, I believe that the Browne Leadership Fellows program is the perfect place for me to begin my learning experience."



Caralyn Gorman

Majors: Environmental Geology and Environmental Engineering.

“Growing up in Pittsburgh, I have seen firsthand that individuals thrive in healthy communities, and that a healthy environment is crucial to a healthy community. During my time as a Browne Fellow I hope to make improvements to Pittsburgh’s current environmental health situation, to educate people about environmental conditions, and to inform people about ways in which they can improve the local and global environment. In doing this, I hope that Pittsburgh, and the world, will become a stronger, healthier, and happier community.”



Zachary Grewe

Majors: Psychology and Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies

"I believe that students have a unique capacity to act as agents of and catalysts for change in their communities. The education we are receiving here at Pitt is both a hard-earned privilege and a rare opportunity for advancing the common good. I applied to the Browne Leadership Fellows Program because I want to use the skills I am gaining in the classroom as a tool for social action within the Pittsburgh community. I am eager to learn how this can best be accomplished by working alongside community members and this diverse group of students."



Hasham Jamil

Majors: Psychology and Sociology

Minor: History

Certificate: Global Studies

“The biggest thing I've learned in college is just how awesome of a feeling it is when you realize you are making an impact. From my experience with coordinating community service opportunities to being a resident assistant I've seen the power a strong community has on the individuals apart of it. Now that I can call this campus and this city my home I want nothing more that to have as many opportunities to have that feeling as I can. As a Browne Fellow I'm hoping to use my past experiences to try to give back to the city that I love. With the Browne Fellows I can not only make an impact on the community, but help others do the same.”



Laura Obregon

Major: Biological Sciences

Minors: Chemistry and German Language

Certificate: Global Studies--Changing Identities In a Global World

“I hope to pursue a career in the healthcare field, yet I have also realized that healthcare is very intricately woven with social issues. The relationship is so interesting, that I could not miss this opportunity to get further involved. The Browne Leadership Fellows Program definitely a wonderful chance to explore the impact that service has in our city. Pittsburgh, though smaller than other cities, is very much affected by global issues, and a chance for us as undergraduate students to get involved and help people first-hand is exceptional.”



Cecilia Oliveros

Majors: Environmental Studies and Economics

“My involvement in an international development group on campus, FeelGood, has taught me to think critically about how to most effectively help communities without unintentionally hindering their progress. I viewed the Browne Leadership Program as an excellent

opportunity to bring some of these critical thinking skills and this community-led approach into a local community and be able to work more directly with the people. I also hope to incorporate my environmental background to address the intersection of sustainability and community development.”



Mia Siclari

Majors: Economics and Business Dual Degree

“I applied to be part of the Browne Program because I am passionate about Pittsburgh and service. Economics gives me a great perspective on the community and establishing sustainable programs. I look forward to working with the community, learning more about my city and becoming a leader in Pittsburgh.”

