

Taylor Baumgardner, (Western Branch HS '17, Chesapeake)



Taylor is a rising sophomore Music Education major who expects to graduate May 2021. She is involved in Jazz Educators Club, Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity, PSU Symphonic Band and PSU Saxophone Ensemble. Her volunteer activity revolves around THON- specifically Encore Benefitting THON.

Her Music 40 class, a first-year seminar class for music education students, had the most significant impact on her academics so far. Even though she was confident that she wanted to become a music educator, it was exposure to older students and professors from different emphasis groups plus general and high school music teachers in Music 40 that helped her decide that she wants to teach high school band classes. That decision helped her focus her studies toward reaching that specific goal.

In addition, Taylor credits the course with not only putting her on a specific career path but also enabling her to develop a network of friends who support each other in their music education endeavors and social life as well.

Taylor wrote in her scholarship essay, "Being in my Music 40 seminar class and hearing the stories from different professors and students helped solidify the fact that I want to teach and help shape the lives of children through music."

Kerriana Moore (Norfolk Christian, '16, Virginia Beach)



Kerriana is a rising junior with a triple major in the College of Liberal Arts: Political Science, Criminology, and African American studies. She is the Founder and President of Hope Here Hope Now (August 2017-Present), PSU's first organization dedicated to combatting sex trafficking, Vice President of the National Council of Negro Women (historian last year) and is Public Relations Chair for the Multicultural Undergraduate Law Association. In the community, she volunteered as a legislative/policy intern for the Virginia Beach Justice Initiative and interned for various local political campaigns.

The biggest impact on Kerriana's academic career so far comes from her Criminology 012 course. It's why she added Criminology as a third major. The class brought a new perspective to her thinking about why people commit crimes—in particular, the impact of environment on criminal activity. She initially thought that environment dooms some to

failure. She came to understand that doesn't have to be the case. Kerriana says that understanding changed the way she treats her own relationships. "Just because someone grew up in a bad environment doesn't mean I can't be the person to change their scenery," she wrote.

In her scholarship essay she concluded, "I'm pretty sure I won't stop all crime with this tactic, but having the skills of understanding, patience, and compassion, will definitely reflect a positive change in you and the people around you. You never really know how much of an influence you might be in someone's life, so be a good one."