Becoming a Global Leader

Northern Michigan University student and McNair Scholar Marissa Bekkering is one of 20 students accepted into the Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program at The Hague University of Applied Sciences in The Hague, Netherlands. The Hudsonville, Mich., native will participate in the program from June 29-July 21.

Bekkering is a double major in international studies and communications with a minor in technical theater. She applied for the program due to her excelled interest in pursuing doctoral studies in intercultural communication after she graduates from NMU.

"I was completely in shock when I found out I was accepted into the program," said Bekkering. "I have been out of the Midwest a handful of times and I have never actually left the country, so it is very exciting to have this opportunity to go abroad and learn more about how I can make the world a better place."

The Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program is co-sponsored by the Council for Opportunity in Education and ECHO Center for Diversity Policy. It accredited by The Hague University of Applied Sciences, an institute made up of 14 academies. The university offers 42 full-time undergraduate degrees, 21 part-time (nine taught in English) and 10 dual bachelor's courses. The university also offers nine master's degrees (three taught in English), has a student population of approximately 25,000 students and is known for the international characteristic of its student population, with about 146 nationalities represented on campus.

The McNair Scholars Program is a federal TRIO program funded at 151 institutions across the United States and Puerto Rico by the U.S. Department of Education. It is designed to prepare undergraduate students for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. McNair participants have demonstrated strong academic potential and are either first-generation college students with financial need or members of a group that is traditionally underrepresented in graduate education.

My name is Marissa Bekkering I am majoring in communications and Spanish with a minor in technical theatre. I am from Hudsonville, Michigan, which is very close to Grand Rapids. I enjoy doing yoga, going on hikes, and reading books and novels of all sorts in my spare time. I would optimally like to pursue research correlating to the broad category of intercultural/international communication and potentially narrowing that focus on a specific component of intercultural/international communication. I am very open to different variations of research on topics relating to intercultural/international communication.

Scholarships awarded

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded the respective scholarships:

Rasmussen Scholarship
awarded to Madison G. Hummel

James L. Rapport Scholarship
awarded to Emily E. Baker

Mitzi Selin Scholarship
awarded to Joel R. Shinavier

Forest Roberts Family Endowment Scholarship
awarded to Emily A. Kendall

John P. McGoff Scholarship
awarded to Todd D. Rose

Communicating the transgender experience

CAPS communication studies graduate Madeline Wiles '19 will be presenting her paper, "Our Family's Journey: The Narrative Account of the Communicative Processes of the Transgender Coming Out Experience" at the Organization of the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender Conference in November. This was Madeline's senior capstone paper.

She'll be attending Southern Illinois University in the fall in the gender and sexuality master's program. She has a fully funded grad fellowship and teaching position.

Additionally, she and CAPS Instructor Sara Potter have put together a panel for the same conference that explores masculinity in the academy through the narrative retellings of Madeline's journey into feminist pedagogy and her transition as a transgender female. They will be exploring the complexities of context, relationship and identity.

COMPLEXITIES OF IDENTITY
Madeline Wiles