

Meet Our 2018 AmeriCorps Segal Fellows

Le'otis Boswell Johnson, 2018 City Year Segal Fellow



Le'otis Boswell Johnson was born and raised in West Palm Beach, Florida. He Graduated from Florida State University (FSU) with a degree in Criminology and Psychology and is attending the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. While in college, Le'otis was a founding member of the non-profit program Sons of Sophistication, a mentoring program for young men of color at a high school in Tallahassee, FL. After graduating from FSU, Le'otis applied to City Year Jacksonville and was selected to be a first year Team Leader. He was awarded as the 2018 Eli J. Segal National Bridge Builder and AmeriCorps Member of the Year by City Year. He is passionate about working to better the experience of “at risk” youth. Many kids growing up with lower socioeconomic statuses are often written off or looked down upon unless they are one of the “exceptional” kids who deserve a chance. He wants to create a system that allows kids, even the ones who make mistakes and end up in the system, to have a fighting chance to discover and utilize their potential to be successful despite what their circumstances might be. He seeks to do this on two fronts, through advocating for juveniles as a juvenile defense attorney and as advocating for academic and juvenile justice reform.

Monica Keenan, 2018 AmeriCorps Alums Segal Fellow



Monica Keenan is an MBA candidate and Trinity Fellow at Marquette University. She completed her undergraduate career at Rockhurst University, earning a degree in Nonprofit Leadership and English, as well as her Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP) credential. After graduation, Monica joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest as a Jesuit Volunteer and AmeriCorps Member and served in Montana and Oregon as both Academic Support and as a Children’s Program Specialist in her two years of service. Monica hopes to use her education and experiences to bridge gaps between the corporate, nonprofit, and government sectors to provide better holistic services and care.

Tia Renier, 2018 Corporation for National and Community Service Segal Fellow



Tia Renier is dedicated to social service initiatives that break down barriers to community safety and family preservation. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a Bachelor’s in social work. Tia participated in her university’s first cohort of undergraduate Title IV-E students, where she made a commitment to serve families impacted by poverty, substance abuse and violence. Tia provided direct case management to over 150 children and families involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice system to address child safety concerns, create plans to reunite children with their parents and provide holistic strategies to keep youth out of the court system. After a service project in the Philippines, her passion for disaster relief was ignited, and she joined AmeriCorps-FEMA Corps. She served with a national incident management team, carrying out exercises to prepare for national response. During her year of service, she deployed to record floods in South Carolina, as well as the aftermath of a typhoon on Guam. Tia is inspired by the thousands of citizens, young and old, who devote themselves to improving the lives of others through CNCS programs. She hopes to gain a better understanding of how decisions are made at the federal level and be a voice for how these decisions impact both service members, as well as recipients of program services. She intends to leverage her experiences in social services to examine program efficacy and accessibility. Tia was born and raised in Wisconsin.

Shawn Wilds, 2018 AmeriCorps Alums Segal Fellow



Shawn Wilds is from a small town in eastern North Carolina and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Upon graduation, she moved to Washington, DC, to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA at Reading Partners. She served with Reading Partners for two years as a Volunteer Coordinator, where her passion for education and youth was reinforced by the opportunities to build partnerships with local high schools and other organizations. The importance of service to others was instilled in Shawn at a very young age and has been a major focus in her personal and professional life. Shawn is currently the Post-Secondary Program Coordinator at For Love of Children and supports high school seniors as they unlock opportunities and identify what success looks like for them after high school. In addition, she advises current post-secondary students as they navigate through college and continue into their careers. Shawn aspires to become a high school guidance counselor so that she can continue to support youth from underserved communities.

For more information about the Segal Program, visit <https://segal.brandeis.edu>.