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Anna Orsini at Michigan State University Receives Newman Civic Fellow Award from Campus Compact

Today, 135 students from 30 states were honored as Newman Civic Fellows by Campus Compact. Among the honorees is Anna Orsini of Michigan State University. The Newman Civic Fellows Awards recognize inspiring college student leaders who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country.

Boston, MA - Dr. Frank Newman—one of the founders of Campus Compact—had a tremendous impact on American education and its role in the development of citizens who are eager and prepared to make a difference. He dedicated his life to creating systemic change through education reform and he would have been inspired by this first group of 135 Newman Civic Fellows, named today by Campus Compact. They are, quite simply, reflections and affirmations of his life’s work.

From 30 states, college and university presidents have nominated the best-of-the-best: promising college student leaders who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country. Through service, research, and advocacy, these Newman Civic Fellows are making the most of their college experiences to better understand themselves, the root causes of social issues, and effective mechanisms for creating lasting change.

“These students represent the next generation of public problem solvers and civic leaders. They serve as national examples of the role that higher education can—and does play in building a better world,” explains Campus Compact President Maureen F. Curley.

Anna Orsini, a junior at Michigan State University in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, not only serves on behalf of youth in the East Lansing/Lansing area, but actively engages early adolescents in issues-oriented community involvement as well. Anna has successfully navigated school district policies and systems to garner administrator, teacher and parent support to establish the MacDonald Middle School Leadership Club, in which she guides the young members in social-justice
focused service efforts. Anna’s commitment to community extends beyond her work with youth, notably her development of the “Transitions” art exhibit for the Michigan State University LBGT Resource Center.

Through service-learning courses and other opportunities for community engagement, colleges are developing students’ critical public problem-solving skills such as the ability to research and analyze community needs, a willingness to lead and participate in public processes and debate, the commitment to raise awareness about community challenges, and the ability to inspire people to become part of solutions.

Campus Compact is a national coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents—representing some 6 million students—who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education to improve community life and to educate students for civic and social responsibility. Through the Newman Civic Fellows Awards, college and university presidents acknowledge students with the ability and motivation to create lasting change in our communities. For more information about the Newman Civic Fellows, visit www.compact.org