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Fearless: Emily Hauck

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Fearless: Emily Hauck

Abstract

Beginning with an interest in Spanish language that led her to Argentina and Spain, Emily decided to use the language skills she acquired during her gap year after high school and time spent studying abroad to get herself connected to the Latino community in Adams County. Volunteering with different organizations and programs like the LIU #12 Migrant Education Programs, Casa de la Cultura, and El Centro, Emily started seeing the big picture—making connections between the immigration stories, people she was meeting, and the greater national dialogue on immigration issues. [*excerpt*]

Keywords

Surge, Surge Gettysburg, Gettysburg College, Center for Public Service, sexuality, gender, immigration, Latino, Latino community, Spanish, El Centro, study abroad

Disciplines

Civic and Community Engagement | Ethnic Studies | Inequality and Stratification | Latin American Languages and Societies | Latin American Studies | Race and Ethnicity | Race, Ethnicity and Post-Colonial Studies | Social Welfare | Spanish and Portuguese Language and Literature

Comments

Surge is a student blog at [Gettysburg College](http://www.gettysburg.edu) where systemic issues of justice matter. Posts are originally published at surgegettysburg.wordpress.com Through stories and reflection, these blog entries relate personal experiences to larger issues of equity, demonstrating that –isms are structural problems, not actions defined by individual prejudice. We intend to popularize justice, helping each other to recognize our biases and unlearn the untruths.

SURGE

[VERB] : to move suddenly or powerfully forward or upward

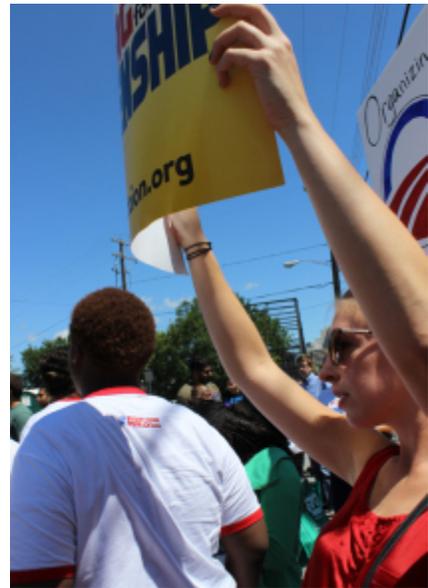
FEARLESS: EMILY HAUCK

January 24, 2014

Emily at an Immigration Reform Rally in Harrisburg in July 2013

Beginning with an interest in Spanish language that led her to Argentina and Spain, Emily decided to use the language skills she acquired during her gap year after high school and time spent studying abroad to get herself connected to the Latino community in Adams County.

Volunteering with different organizations and programs like the LIU #12 Migrant Education Programs, Casa de la Cultura, and El Centro, Emily started seeing the big picture—making connections between the immigration stories, people she was meeting, and the greater national dialogue on immigration issues.



During her Heston Summer Experience in Gettysburg, her passion for promoting immigration reform and protecting immigrants' rights only grew, and is currently looking at pursuing a career centered on issues of immigration, whether in terms of advocacy, policy, or law. This year she has continued to press on toward her goal, writing her capstone paper about immigration policy, becoming a PLA for El Centro, and being selected as the student leader for the US/Mexico Border Immersion Project.

The [Immersion Project](#), led by Emily and Jorge Pérez-Rico, Community Liaison at Center for Public Service, took several Gettysburg College students and two community members who have received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals to the US/Mexico border to discuss immigration issues, not as sanitized foreign concepts or theories, but as real issues and injustices ingrained in US policy, law, society, and culture. "I was overwhelmed," says Emily, "by the injustices that many undocumented immigrants face here in the US."



Emily on the U.S./Mexico border during the Immersion Project to Texas in January 2014.

The group of students also spent time meeting with both documented and undocumented immigrants, hearing firsthand about their experiences and struggles. “Most immigrants enter the US to find a better life for their families because they have exhausted all of their resources back in their home countries,” says Emily. “The majority specifically say they just want their children to get an education and have hope for the future.”

Experiencing border checkpoints, needing border officers to check paperwork and IDs, volunteering in food pantries, and visiting farms and food centers devoted to food justice all proved powerful and meaning experiences for Emily and her group. “This trip to Texas,” says Emily, “really made me realize that I want to have a career working to protect immigrants’ rights.”

Through all of her experience, Emily has come to understand the seriousness of the injustices faced by immigrants as caused by systemic issues ingrained in US politics, priorities, and mentalities. More than just a volunteer, more than just a student, Emily has become an informed and passionate advocate for justice.

Kathryn Bucolo '14
Fearless Coordinator

<http://surgegettysburg.wordpress.com/2014/01/24/fearless-emily-hauck/>