

## Dane County Youth Governance Program

### 21-22 Candidate Recommendations

Presented by Gabby Balza, Youth Development Associate Educator

#### 2021-2022 Class Recruitment Review

- Applications: 18 new applications, 1 second term application
- Interviewed: 15 applicants interviewed

*1st Round Application Review* - We evaluated students based off the quality of their written application. Students who wrote thoughtful and comprehensive responses for the short answer questions were invited for a second round interview. Originally 17 applicants were invited out of the 19 for interviews, but two declined due to scheduling issues, so 15 were interviewed.

*2nd Round Interviews* - Lisa Curley & Gabby Balza interviewed 15 applicants via zoom. We evaluated their interview performance, ability to commit to the program with a consideration for a diversity of race/ethnicity, age, gender and geography in order to represent county demographics. The applicants were emailed some of the topics we would ask in the interview in order for them to better prepare their responses. We used score sheets to evaluate both the application and the interview, and the 4 that did not make the final round had the lowest scores of the group. We plan to recommend those 4 to apply to By Youth for Youth.

The 11 applicants recommended for the 19-20 YGP term are described as follows:

Name	Highschool	Year	Gender	Race	Ethnicity
Gordon Allen	Madison East	12	Male	Black	Not Hispanic or Latino
Emily Cai	James Madison Memorial	11	Non-Binary	Asian	Not Hispanic or Latino
Sai Akanksha Denduluri	James Madison Memorial	10	Female	Asian	Not Hispanic or Latino
Miranda Garcia-Dove	Madison West	11	Female	White	Hispanic or Latino
Heba Haq	Middleton High School	11	Female	Asian	Not Hispanic or Latino
Aarush Jain	Middleton High School	12	Male	Prefer not to Respond	Prefer not to respond
Simon Johnson	Madison West	12	Male	White	Not Hispanic or Latino
Joseph Kaji	Madison West	10	Male	Asian	Not Hispanic or Latino
Ronan Rataj	Madison West	11	Male	White	Not Hispanic or Latino
Gabriella Shell	Madison West	11	Female	Asian/White	Not Hispanic or Latino
Lila Yackee	Madison West	12	Female	White	Not Hispanic or Latino

#### Reflection for Future Process/Outreach

Since it was my first year joining YGP, I was focused on starting the program back up and rebuilding. So far I have learned so much and hope to expand on the following action items next year throughout the outreach process:

- Involve supervisors in the interview process & in the interview question creation.
- Outreach to underrepresented areas and schools in order to continue diversifying our pool of applicants. I will do this by updating our outreach contacts and adding new community members to that list.