

Senior sociology major selected to present at 'Posters on the Hill'

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Alfred University student Jaclyn Tyson, a senior sociology major from Fairport, NY, was one of 80 young people participating in the Council on Undergraduate Research's (CUR) "Posters on the Hill" Conference in Washington, D.C. April 25. She was selected out of some 400 undergraduate students from across the nation vying to be asked to Capitol Hill to present the results of their independent research in science, mathematics and humanities. Their research was funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, NASA, and many other agencies -- federal, state, and private. They displayed their research posters to Members of Congress, federal agency funding officers, and invited guests. The press was also invited to meet the students and view the posters. Tyson's presentation was entitled "Witnesses to Violence: What Secondary Victims See According to Domestic Violence Incidence Reports." She was accompanied by Dr. Karen L. Porter, professor of sociology, and a member of the Rural Justice Institute at Alfred University. Porter promotes civic engagement in her classes by encouraging student researchers to get involved in the many opportunities to conduct field research. One such opportunity is the "Posters on the Hill Conference." Tyson is Porter's third student in the last five years to be selected to present research at the event. Tyson, a May AU graduate, was recently inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society, Alfred University chapter, and received the Luke Mader Smith Award in Sociology at the University's spring Honors Convocation. She is currently in the job market looking for research-related employment. Tyson is a daughter of Michael Tyson of Victor, NY, and Elizabeth Tyson of Fairport, and a graduate of Fairport High School. The nation's technological infrastructure requires well-trained scientists and engineers, but studies show that the number of students selecting these fields will not keep up with demand. Participation in research projects represents one of the most effective ways of engaging students actively in the learning process and a significant majority of students electing to pursue advanced degrees in the physical and life sciences engage in undergraduate research. Students participating in original research projects graduate from college at higher rates than those who do not. Posters on the Hill offers students the opportunity to share their personal stories and the excitement of their discoveries with members of Congress and professional scientists. Students spend the day visiting the offices of their elected representatives and the large majority meet with one or more Representatives or Senators. The day concludes with a poster session attended by members of Congress, their staffs, and personnel from federal funding agencies. This year the CUR and the American Chemical Society (ACS) collaborated by jointly hosting CUR's Posters on the Hill and ACS's Public Service Award. CUR is a national professional association representing faculty and administrators at nearly 1,000 academic institutions.