

UNICEF Campus Initiative National Council Member Bios 2016–2017



Zineb Alfath
University of Minnesota
Twin Cities
Senior National Council

ZINEB ALFATH is a senior at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities College of Biological Sciences, majoring in Neuroscience and Spanish. She became involved with the University of Minnesota UNICEF Club as a freshman, serving first as Public Relations Chair, then as President. During the 2015–16 school year, she also served as the Campus Initiative National Council Member for the Southern California region. After doing a research project on the social determinants of child and maternal health in Latin America, she developed a passion for UNICEF’s work in improving prevention and access to healthcare through vaccination, nutrition, water, and education programs. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends, and she hopes to pursue a career in medicine or public health.



Andrea Colmenero
Metropolitan State University
of Denver
Senior National Council

ANDREA COLMENERO is entering her senior year at Metropolitan State University of Denver, where she is currently pursuing her undergraduate degree in International Studies with a minor in Journalism & Communications. She has been a volunteer with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF for almost three years and has served as Treasurer, Vice President, and President of the UNICEF at MSU Denver chapter that was established in 2014. Following her engagement, she also served as a UNICEF Campus Initiative National Council member for the U.S. Fund for UNICEF during the 2015–16 term. Andrea has been engaged in creating events for UNICEF’s annual campaigns and advocating on behalf of the world’s children. She has interned with U.S. Senator Michael Bennet and volunteered with the United Nations Association of Denver, where she holds a position as the Young Professionals — UNICEF Chair. She is the cofounder of the advocacy campaign, Foodvocacy, as part of the Clinton Global Initiative University 2016 Commitment to Action Team. She is looking forward to continuing her work with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF program and team to utilize her previous experience and passion as a Senior National Council member.



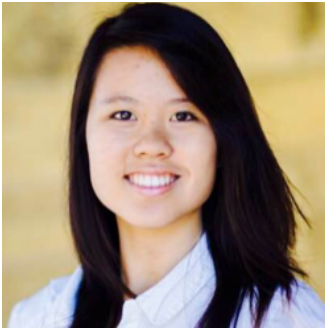
Shamim Ahmed
George Mason University
New York Region

SHAMIM AHMED is a junior at George Mason University, majoring in Systems Engineering. He regularly volunteers for nonprofits within his community and has served Mason's UNICEF chapter as President in 2015. Being active about human rights, he has worked with peers to host sports fundraisers, benefit concerts, and meal and hygiene packaging events, all while creating a platform where students can begin making a difference locally and globally right from their university. Shamim wishes to implement his engineering discipline with nonprofit work, thinking of ways he could further improve nonprofit effectiveness. His work in the community led him to become the recipient of the University Life Award at Mason, given once a year to a student who exemplifies initiative and leadership at the university. His passion for giving back to the world originates from his early childhood observances of kids in his home country of Bangladesh who lacked basic necessities such as food, clean water, medical resources, and access to education. Aside from work and school, his hobbies include skiing, traveling, and watching *Courage the Cowardly Dog* with his four-year-old nephew.



Natalie Braun
The Ohio State University
Midwest Region

NATALIE BRAUN is a senior Humanities Scholar at The Ohio State University majoring in psychology and minoring in both human rights and disability studies. She first learned about UNICEF while doing a research project in junior high on actress and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Audrey Hepburn. She instantly fell in love with UNICEF's commitment to helping all children reach their full potential and has been a strong advocate for their work ever since. She has been a volunteer with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF for the past three years, and is entering her third year on the executive board of UNICEF at Ohio State. Natalie is an intern with the Transition Options in Postsecondary Settings (TOPS) program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at The Ohio State University and has also been an active volunteer at her local county's Board of Developmental Disabilities since she was in kindergarten. She is entering her third year as a resident advisor for OSU's Future Health Professionals Learning Community and hopes to continue her education in the field of public health after graduation. Natalie is a strong advocate for sustainable, responsible travel, and had the amazing opportunity to visit Northern India in the summer of 2015. She believes that global citizenship is about actively seeking a lifestyle that expresses and acknowledges the connection of every person's humanity to one's own, and strives to achieve this in her daily life. In her spare time she loves watching classic films, writing, and being outside, especially on her family's farm.



Monica Miaoxia Chan
Stanford University
*Northwest and Southern
California Regions*

MONICA MIAOXIA CHAN is a senior at Stanford University, pursuing an undergraduate major in Mechanical Engineering, a minor in International Relations, and a concurrent Masters degree in Learning, Design & Technology at Stanford's Graduate School of Education. Since her freshman year, Monica has served on Stanford UNICEF's Executive Board, and led the chapter as President during her junior year. Monica's passion lies at the intersection of design and engineering, global humanitarian challenges, and social development. During her previous summer internship as a Stanford in Government (SIG) Fellow at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) headquarters, she assisted an engineering consultant in designing a new refugee camp in Kenya, and worked with the Shelter and Settlement Section to deliver a site-planning toolkit to various locations in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. This experience required her to leverage technology in humanitarian settings, which prompted her to dedicate more time in her academic year at Stanford to organize educational events and a policy simulation about the Syrian refugee crisis. Recently, Monica was also an invited student-participant at a conference hosted by the U.S. Department of State about Syrian refugee children's education. With leading nonprofit and business professionals, Monica engaged in Design Thinking and presented her idea of a possible solution to the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken. Monica firmly believes in ZERO, and is prepared to work to achieve this goal with UNICEF. A Malaysian citizen but born and raised in Singapore, Switzerland and China, Monica embraces her international identity and seeks to expand her horizons in public service and humanitarian aid in her role as a UNICEF National Council Member.



Tifenn Drouaud
The George Washington University
New England and Mid-Atlantic Regions

TIFENN DROUAUD is a second-year sophomore at The George Washington University in Washington, DC, studying Criminal Justice and Political Science. She was born in France but was raised in Texas, Australia, and Malaysia throughout her life. Tifenn has been involved with UNICEF since the beginning of high school, where she started the International School of Western Australia's first UNICEF chapter, raising awareness and fundraising for various UNICEF causes within an international community. Handing it off when she moved, she remained involved by serving on the Executive Board of the GW UNICEF chapter as Freshman Representative and subsequently Secretary. She hopes to continue her work helping underdeveloped countries plagued by poverty, unsanitary conditions and lacking education, by becoming a criminal attorney. By giving to those who do not have a voice, a mission in line with the UNICEF organization, she believes she can really affect the lives of the less fortunate. She is honored to be chosen to serve on the Campus Initiative National Council to lead those that share a passion for helping others with less comfortable or secure lifestyles. She hopes to relay to others during her term that everybody's involvement matters, regardless of how small an act, and to inspire them to bring about change in the world.



Sahil Noorani
University of Texas at Dallas
Southeast & Southwest Regions

SAHIL NOORANI is currently a premedical sophomore student at the University of Texas at Dallas in Richardson, Texas, pursuing a Bachelor's in biology with a minor in neuroscience. Sahil has always attempted to incorporate volunteerism into his daily life, ranging from volunteering at his local place of worship since the age of eight to offering his time and knowledge in a research lab on-campus. His passion for UNICEF, however, was sparked by his involvement with one of UNICEF's international partnering organizations, the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF). Through his involvement with the Foundation from high school and transitioning into college, Sahil has embraced the mantra of "think globally and act locally" and continues to expand his humanitarian involvement through his campus initiative UNICEF chapter, serving as its Member Outreach Chair. Additionally, through his involvement with AKF, Sahil cofounded the Innovative Solutions Challenge, a unique competition empowering high school students to embrace their roles as both community and global leaders. Sahil looks forward to, one day, attending medical school and becoming either a pathologist or a specialized surgeon. He has also delivered a talk for his campus TEDx chapter regarding global citizenship and cultural pluralism. Through his role as a global citizen and National Council member, Sahil aspires to inspire the youth of today to become the leaders of tomorrow.
