

Akayla A. Henson

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign | Department of Political Science
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Education

PhD, Political Science, *University of Illinois Urbana* 2023-present
Field: American Politics
Minor: Comparative Politics
BA, Political Science, *Murray State University* May 2023
Minor: Criminal Justice

Research Interests

Race, Gender, Political Representation

Publications

Henson, Akayla and Brittany Wood. 2023. "The Mobilizing Effect of Descriptive Representation? The Impact of Representatives' Race and Gender on Participation," *Commonwealth Review of Political Science* 6(1): 87-105.

Conference Presentations

"Transgender Issues: How Black Democrats Differ in Their Views" summer research project presented at the annual **Illinois Summer Research Symposium**, Urbana-Champaign, IL, July 2023.

"The Mobilizing Effect of Descriptive Representation? The Impact of Representatives' Race and Gender on Participation" poster presentation at annual **Kentucky Posters at the Capitol**, Frankfort, KY March 2023.

"The Effects of Descriptive Representation on Political Participation" paper presented at the annual meeting of the **Midwest Political Science Association**, Chicago, IL, April 2022.

"The Impact of Descriptive Representation on Participation: Political Participation of Minority Groups" paper presented at the annual meeting of the **Kentucky Political Science Association**, Lexington, KY, March 2022.

Grants, Fellowships, & Awards

Graduate College Fellowship, February 2023
Harry Lee Waterfield Governmental Studies Scholarship, April 2022
Full Marvin D. Mills Scholarship, August 2020

Certifications

Social & Behavioral Research, *Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative* 2021-2024

University Service

Chair, Council of Presidents, National Pan-Hellenic Council MSU, 2022-2023

Secretary, Gamma Beta Phi, 2022-2023

Secretary, National Pan-Hellenic Council MSU, 2021-2022

Leaders Enhancing Academic Diversity, 2021-Present

President, Eta Upsilon Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., 2021-2023

Chair, Service Committee, Murray State University College Democrats, 2021

Community Involvement

Assistant Director of Recruitment, Missouri Leadership Seminar, 2022-Present

Junior Facilitator, Missouri Leadership Seminar, April 2019-Present

Counselor in Training, East St. Louis Community Peace Camp, July 2017-Present

Memberships

McNair Scholars Program

Leaders Enhancing Academic Diversity

Order of Omega

National Pan-Hellenic Council

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Gamma Beta Phi

Murray State College Democrats

Missouri Leadership Seminar

References

Available upon request