

The Feminist Majority Foundation Campus Program: Who we are, what we do, and how we can support you!

The Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) Campus Organizers are the FMLA and Affiliate groups' direct connection to the FMF and our national network of feminists. Our main focus is to help groups start and maintain feminist student organizations on their college campuses by providing support and resources. We have a staff of nine people including our Campus Program Directors, Crystal Lander and duVergne Gaines. Before we tell you more about what we offer your group, here is a little bit about your specific Campus Organizer:

Campus Organizers

Natalia Averett graduated from Pomona College with a degree in International Relations. She spent a semester abroad studying at the University of Havana in Cuba, where she researched gender and sexual identity in Latin America. Natalia was co-manager of the Pomona College Women's Union where she organized activities surrounding women's issues. She has also interned with Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project and Liberia Del Pueblo. Natalia is also fluent in Spanish.

Natalia is the primary Organizer for campuses in: DC, MA, MD, NH, NJ, NY, RI, and VA and can be reached at (202) 390-1853.

Jessica Bearden graduated from Vanderbilt University with a double major in Political Science and Women's Studies. Co-president of Vanderbilt Feminists and co-founder of Vanderbilt Students March for Choice, Jessica has worked for the Tennessee Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Women's Social Policy and Research Center at Vanderbilt University and Project Vote Smart.

Jessica is the primary Organizer for campuses in: AL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OH, OK, SC, TN, and WV and can be reached at (202) 415-1768.

Elizabeth Brookbank graduated from Middlebury College with a double major in Women's and Gender Studies and English. As president of Feminist Action at Middlebury (FAM), Elizabeth served as the primary organizer for her campus's March for Women's Lives delegation of over 100 students, faculty, and staff. She also worked as an intern with the feminist news journal, *off our backs*. Elizabeth is responsible for maintaining FeministCampus.org and being the office contact while the other Organizers are in the field. She can be reached at (202) 390-8179.

Lauren Greis was a Sociology, Politics and Anthropology major at Brandeis University. Lauren spearheaded a Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance campaign to educate students about the availability of emergency contraception in her campus health center. She also studied with the School for International Training in Melbourne, Australia where she completed an independent study project on health care for Aboriginal Australians. Working as a campus outreach coordinator, Lauren recruited schools to register and participate in Oxfam America's Collegiate Click Drive.

Lauren is the primary Organizer for campuses in: CT, DE, MA, MD, NJ, NY, RI, VA, VT, WI, and IL and can be reached at (202) 468-7038.

Nisha Gulati came to the Feminist Majority Foundation with extensive experience as a campus leader and feminist organizer having facilitated several community-wide choice outreach programs including an emergency contraceptive awareness campaign, a get out the vote effort, a women's reproductive health access project, and a choice outreach campaign encompassing several universities. She graduated with honors from MIT with a Bachelor of Science in management science degree.

Nisha is the primary Organizer for campuses in: AZ, CA, IA, KS, MO, NV, OR, and TX and can be reached at (310) 597-7812.

Candice Lopez graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder with a double major in Women's Studies and Psychology. With a strong commitment to work regarding violence against women, Candice was a co-founder of Students Advocating Fair and Equal Treatment, which organized and protested her school's response to allegations of sexual assault. As the student coordinator of CU's Rape and Gender Education program Candice assisted in coordinating a student volunteer peer-educating program. Recipient of many awards for outstanding academic achievement, community service, and contributions to the University, Candice is determined to combat sexism and work for women's rights.

Candice is the primary Organizer for campuses in: CO, FL, IN, MI, MN, TX, PA, and IL and can be reached at (202) 486-6324.

Jessie Raeder is a second year campus organizer who graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Southern California where she studied Gender Studies and Cinema-Television Production. Jessie was a student leader and feminist activist on her campus. She has worked as a Planned Parenthood volunteer and contributed to the production of documentaries focused on human rights, race relations, and abortion.

Jessie is the primary Organizer for campuses in: CA, NE, NV, NM, ID, SD, MO, OR, IA, WA, and NE and can be reached at (310) 597-7954.

The Campus Program Directors

Crystal Lander, M.P.H, East Coast Campus Program Director—Crystal Lander is an accomplished professional community organizer with extensive experience working with diverse communities and on college campuses. Deeply involved in issues of choice and women's health, Crystal has managed the Community Action program for Planned Parenthood Global Partners and also directed operations and community organizing at a Planned Parenthood affiliate clinic. Crystal has a background in international health and has studied women's health issues in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Spain, Cuba, and Portugal. Crystal earned a Master of Public Health degree at Tulane University and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Economics from the University of Michigan.

duVergne Gaines, West Coast Campus Program Director — duVergne Gaines graduated with a J.D. from Loyola Marymount Law School. As a law student, Ms. Gaines received recognition for excellence in constitutional and first amendment law and was also a member of the prestigious law review. Prior to law school, Ms. Gaines co-Directed Rock for Choice for seven years, and gained extensive experience as a field organizer both for Rock for Choice and the National Clinic Access Project. Prior to directing the West Coast Campus Program, she most recently headed Rock for Choice programming and organized celebrity participation for the March for Freedom of Choice.

A Brief History of the Campus Program

The Campus program was created by and for young people. In 1997, the *Choices* Campaign was launched and our feminist, pro-choice, student-run groups were born. The Program was designed to provide students with the tools, resources, training, and support necessary to combat these challenges and be pro-active around feminist issues.

We also work to bridge the gap between academics and activism: effective activism is dependent on education; inform young feminists of the very real threats to abortion access, women's rights, affirmative action, LGBT rights and other feminist issues; empower students to effect change at the grassroots, national and global levels; establish a permanent progressive voice on college campuses; and create a national network of pro-choice feminist activists.

Benefits of Being Affiliated with the Feminist Majority Foundation

Connection to a National Network of Feminist Activists

There are many groups on college campuses across the country who educate about and promote feminist issues. Our job is to connect all of those groups in an effort to strengthen our voices and our message. For instance, when the Feminist Majority Foundation does a campaign all of our campus groups receive the same materials. We encourage the campus groups to do planned events on one day so that the effect is nationally recognized. The Campus Team also sends out a bi-monthly e-zine that highlights the efforts of our campus groups and promotes upcoming events. If a group wants to organize around a specific issue, they can rely on our extensive nationwide network of student activists and feminist faculty for activism ideas, problem solving suggestions, and support.

Access to Campus Organizers and FMF Resources

You have access to your campus organizers anytime you have a question or concern. We are here to help you with college and university administration, brainstorm ideas about programming, recruitment, and retention, as well as to connect you to resources you may need to educate your campus and your group. The Campus Organizers are recent college graduates and all participated in campus feminist activism and have an idea of how college and universities work in regards to feminist student organizations. We can also work with faculty to ensure the longevity and success of your group.

The Power of Multiple Voices

Being part of a FMLA or affiliate group creates a movement mentality—it allows us to act as a unified front to counter the anti-feminist backlash. FMLAs are critical to the success of the FMF mission for several reasons. Most importantly, they identify and mobilize campus feminists, who are already the majority but need support in organizing and educating their fellow students.

The right-wing is heavily invested in college recruiting. Campus Crusade for Christ is on around 250 campuses and has 14,000 staff members. There is a conservative media myth that feminism is "losing" young people. FMLA presence, visibility, and action counter that falsehood and counteract anti-abortion activism on campuses.

FMLAs also give us a local campus presence to defend against the decline of Women's Studies programs and Women's Centers whose budgets are often cut by campus administrations and Boards of Trustees.

The Purpose Behind the Feminist Leadership Institute

The FLI allows us a chance to bring the Feminist Majority Foundation groups together to recognize the amount of work that all of the campus groups achieve in solidarity. It is also a chance to share information and resources that allow for well orchestrated and educated organizing to happen on a college campus. Hands-on leadership training from experienced activists provides student activists with the tools that they need to run successful feminist student organizations on their campuses.

- **The Structure of Equality** **1**

- **The Status of Equality:
A State by State Analysis** **2**

- **Equity in Education** **3**

- **Strengthening Your Feminist
Student Group** **4**

- **Feminist Majority Foundation
Campus Program Materials** **5**