

Akayla A. Henson

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

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

Research Interests

Race, Gender, Political Representation, Voting Behavior

Publications

Henson, Akayla and Brittany Wood. 2023. "The Mobilizing Effect of Descriptive Representation? The Impact of Representatives' Race and Gender on Participation," *The 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, 2021-2023

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

Community Involvement

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

Senior Facilitator, Missouri Leadership Seminar, 2022-Present

Junior Facilitator, Missouri Leadership Seminar, 2019-2022

Counselor in Training, East St. Louis Community Peace Camp, 2017-2022

Memberships

McNair Scholars Program

Leaders Enhancing Academic Diversity

Order of Omega

National Pan-Hellenic Council

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Gamma Beta Phi

Missouri Leadership Seminar

References

Available upon request