

WINNERS



Congratulations to the 2021 Psychological Science Social Justice Award Winners

Rose Eerdmans '21, Psychological Science

Laura Schwichtenberg '21, Psychological Science & Art History

Rose and Laura helped found the PSY Social Justice League aiming to identify and develop activities, policy changes, and programs to advance social and racial justice on our campus and in the world. They felt that the discipline of psychological science was in a unique position to offer insight on the causes and consequences of systemic racism, as well as avenues for fighting it. Their goal was to highlight these intersections between psychology and social justice and to use their position to engage in actions that dismantle systemic racism and work toward a more just world for all people. Over the past year, they have led a successful voter engagement efforts and an active journal club that included action pieces for each topic. You can find out more about their efforts at <https://gustavus.edu/psychology/justice.php>

Ava Hanson '21, Psychological Science;
Lat Am, Latinx, Carib Studies; & Spanish

Ava recognized that many Latinos/as do not seek out behavioral health treatment due to stigma surrounding mental health. The Latinos/as that do seek mental health treatment often struggle remaining in treatment due to poor therapeutic alliance, among other things. For her project, she has been trying to understand treatment seeking behaviors among Latinx clients as well as best practices for providers and interpreters involved in behavioral health treatment. This research is being used to create a guide for mental health organizations with the hopes of increasing and maintaining participation from Latinx clients.

The Psychological Science Social Justice Award recognizes and supports the efforts of majors committed to fighting against injustice and for equality in systems, structures, and institutions. These efforts could include but are not limited to conducting research, developing evidence-based policy statements, increasing community knowledge, and organizing groups, activities, or events.