



## **The Princeton Club of Rochester**

**Madeline Funchess**  
**Senior, The Norman Howard School**

The Princeton Prize judges are always impressed by how our candidates advocate for racial equality across so many avenues while juggling teenage life. Madeline is demonstrating this remarkably by setting goals, and identifying where she sees the greatest opportunities to effect real change. One powerful channel she's found is in state-level politics in Albany. Through an internship at Citizen Action New York, Madeline says one way to end racial disparities is to gain power in political positions:

“We do this by electing officials who are like-minded in our goals,” she says.

At Citizen Action, Madeline sought candidates with race-related platforms, such as housing, childcare and education for minorities and the impoverished. She was also instrumental in helping to register hundreds of voters of color across the City of Rochester. Her attendance at Lobby Day in Albany took place when a bill to approve Election Day registration passed on the House floor. Full legislation can lead to greater representation and empowerment for those on whose behalf Madeline advocates.

“This makes it easier for people in communities affected by poverty to vote and have a voice,” says Madeline.

Her internship also included organizing a march in Rochester -- an event she says drew attention to millions of dollars she hopes to see channeled to the Rochester and neighboring school districts for restorative practices aimed at stopping the school-to-prison pipeline. On Lobby Day, she reiterated that message by participating in a protest and talking to lawmakers.

In Rochester, Madeline is working with Edison Career & Technology High School to facilitate a student-run forum to help faculty better understand implicit bias, recognize student perspectives, and establish restorative practices. Rosemary Hodges, an Administrator at Norman Howard School, says Madeline's activism will have far-reaching impact:

“Madeline is dedicated to being a change agent and is consistently motivated to find ways of promoting race relations in our community and beyond. She is tenacious and persistent in her work and independently finds community members from whom she can learn to further her goals.”

Your perseverance and pursuit of equality for all is phenomenal, Madeline. Well done!