

## Student Chapter Spotlight

- **Name:** Sarah Brandes
- **Hometown:** Elgin, Illinois
- **School Attending:** The Ohio State University
- **Degree(s) Pursuing:** Public Management, Leadership, and Policy
- **Degree(s) Earned:** None, yet
- **Past or Current Mentors:** Karen Flanagan (Elgin Emergency Management Department), Karen Castillo (President of Art for All, a nonprofit based in Elgin)
- **When and how did you become interested in a career in local government?**
  - During my senior year of high school, I was a part of my school's Model United Nations club. This showed me that, even though the work of international organizations is vital to success in a globalized world, I am primarily interested in the more tangible doings of government that are accomplished at the local level.
- **Do you have a special local government area of interest?**
  - I am interested in community relations, public safety, and city planning.
- **Short-term goal (next 5 years):**
  - Using the knowledge I gained from my time at Ohio State, I hope to begin my career as a civil servant in a community that reflects my values.
- **Long-term goal (next 10 years):**
  - Through my career in public service, I hope to implement meaningful projects that improve the lives of the individuals I serve. Specifically, I aim to address the lack of trust constituents place in their government by demonstrating that the goal of the work I do is to enhance, not hinder, individuals' lives.
- **How would you describe yourself?**
  - I am an attentive individual dedicated to the work I pursue.
  - I enjoy feeling a part of the community I live in—both at Ohio State and in Columbus at large.
  - I am a huge Buckeye fan 😊
- **Favorite Quote:**
  - "Somebody has to stand when other people are sitting. Somebody has to speak when other people are quiet." ~ Bryan Stevenson

