

Denajah Dedrick Receives Jasper Summer Research Scholar Award

by Bennett Hall

Denajah Dedrick, Communication Department junior, received a supplemental Jasper Summer Research Scholar award supported through the efforts of the HEOP office for Summer 2019. The award consists of a \$1500 stipend and eight weeks of summer housing. Selected students have the opportunity to participate in research sessions, present their research project to faculty, and have access to one-on-one advising about career opportunities after college.

During the summer between her junior and senior year, Dedrick hopes to engage in a summer research project with Mike Plugh, Assistant Professor in the COMM Department. Her research is related to smartphone bullying, and she hopes to conduct focus groups to see what kind of perspectives people have regarding the phenomenon.

In order to be considered for the fellowship, Dedrick was required to attend a meeting, choose a faculty advisor, and submit a proposal for her research topic. She described

the application process overall as a good experience, and didn't find it to be too taxing. Mike Plugh, Dedrick's faculty advisor said:

"Denajah is a first-rate student in the COMM Department. Her writing has been exemplary in her time as a major, and I'm so proud to work with her on this project. Her work has a very important relationship to the possibility of healthier and happier communities, which is the hope for all research in the area of communication in the end."

The hard work will come into play once she is accepted into the program. Ultimately, Dedrick is looking to challenge herself, and wants the opportunity to learn important skills that will be beneficial for her future endeavors.

Dedrick submitted her application in mid-February and heard back about her acceptance from the Center for Graduate School and Fellowship Advisement in the end of March. Both Dedrick and Plugh are excited to begin working on the project in summer 2019. •