

MADELINE KANE

Reynolds Alumnus, 2008

College of Arts and Science

Bachelor of Arts, May 2010

Concentration: Global Development, Spanish and Latin American Cultures

Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service

Master of Public Administration, May 2011



Madeline Kane graduated in May 2010 with a B.A. in Global Development, magna cum laude. She was awarded highest honors for her senior thesis on immigration policy and has been named a Presidential Honors Scholar and a Goldman Sachs Global Leader.

Madeline aims to change U.S. policy in order to promote economic empowerment for women, both domestically and abroad. She has lobbied at the state and national level, working for trade reform with Oxfam America and campaigning with Domestic Workers United to extend basic workplace protections to nannies and housekeepers.

In order to understand the effects of NAFTA and American policy on development in Mexico, Madeline took a leave of absence from NYU to study rural development at the University of Guadalajara as a sophomore.

Through her work with the New York City Fair Trade Coalition, Madeline first saw the power of entrepreneurship help poor artisans. She has volunteered in Costa Rica to help women develop a business, and subsequently applied this experience in Guadalajara to help found a women's artisan cooperative. The organization, Mnini (www.mnini.org), is now recognized as the first indigenous cooperative in the state of Jalisco, Mexico.

Madeline continues to learn about the power of legislation to lift women out poverty through her work experience. She interned on Capitol Hill for Sen. Robert Casey, and in New York on the Women's Leadership Initiative of political advocacy organization Demos.

After graduation, Madeline will travel to Haiti with fellow scholar Jessica Mason to develop income-generating opportunities for women survivors of the January 12 earthquake. In the Fall, she will return to NYU to complete her Masters of Public Administration on a full scholarship while serving as a Graduate Assistant in the office of the Dean.