

Hannah Holladay, Wins 2015-2016 Outstanding EXL Student Award

The Outstanding EXL Student Award is given annually to a student who holds a distinguished record of service in the EXL Scholars Program. Joining the Organizational Communication major as a sophomore, Holladay immediately began taking courses in the Experiential Learning Program. Upon enrolling in Organizational Communication in Communities, Holladay discovered her passion for nonprofit work. She spent the next two years interning for VSA (Very Special Arts) Tennessee in which she conducted a variety of international exchanges and projects for individuals with disabilities. Dr. Mary Beth Asbury, an MTSU professor, speaks of Holladay's dedication to her work, stating, "Hannah used an EXL project in a class to continue to advocate for and serve those with special needs in our community and around the world. She used the skills she learned in her Organizational Communication classes to communicate professionally with various government and organizational entities. She truly represents what an EXL Scholar should be – someone who is willing to take a risk and put their knowledge to the test. In addition, she uses that knowledge to serve others, helping those who are often ignored find their voice through art." Because of her academic and professional achievements, Holladay was presented as one of MTSU's Millennials on a Mission during the university's Nonprofit and Social Innovation week. In reflection of her time in the EXL Program, Holladay stated, "I do not know where I would be now had experiential learning courses not entered my life. Through these classes, I was provided with the opportunity to show my strengths (and sometimes weaknesses) by participating in a wide variety of hands-on work. I developed closer relationships with my professors, found lifelong mentors, and discovered how to truly work as a team. I highly recommend experiential learning classes to those at Middle Tennessee State University, and I am happy to be able to share my experiential learning course experiences with others."