Youth for Environmental Leadership & Learning Fellows 2015-2016

The Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy YELL! Fellowship is for young leaders working to impact environmental health and justice in their communities. YELL! Fellows are gaining a strong analysis of environmental racism from local and national leaders and building skills to transform their communities through hands on projects. Below are CEED’s YELL! Fellows for 2015-2016:

Zitlali Chavez Ayala
I know that many social justice issues affect the places where we live and the type of environmental damage that we experience. I hope that through this fellowship I will be able to learn how to better communicate with the people in my communities about the issues that affect us on a daily basis and get more people of color involved in environmental issues. I am interested in climate change and healthy neighborhoods, especially around food justice. I want to improve food access that supports our traditional cultures and the health of my community.

Andy Kell
I grew up to a working class family in Northfield, a rural, college town in southern Minnesota. A combination of seeing acres on acres of corn and soybean fields degrading the earth around me, being infinitely in love with green things that grow, and finding opportunities to work with other young people in Northfield around social and environmental justice has fostered my desire to work for the regeneration of our Earth. Because reform often does not make the desired impact, I really want to dig in to cooperative development and learn to institutionalize the better world we want to see.

Carlos Parra Oliveira
I am most passionate about environmental justice in South Minneapolis, and how we can organize people to stop further industrialization as part of a much-needed healing process. Working-class Indigenous and Latino families disproportionately suffer from respiratory and dietary illnesses. I want to help mobilize people for real local changes in South Minneapolis. I would like to better understand how marginalized communities of color can organize and successfully pressure dominant economic and political actors to change.

Tiana Bellamy
Having worked in mainstream environmental spaces without racial literacy, I know the survival of communities like mine depends on environmental justice. It is my ambition to foster activism around issues of environmental degradation in ways that are accessible to my community. Through this fellowship, I hope to gain a network of local environmental justice activists, and gain the tools to fight back against environmental degradation in urban neighborhoods.

Learn more about YELL! and CEED at www.ceed.org

“Bringing Justice to Sustainability”
2021 East Hennepin Avenue Suite 155 | Minneapolis, MN 55413 | info@ceed.org | 612.259.7371 | www.ceed.org