

2011-2012 Greenlining Academy Fellows



Avis Atkins
Executive Fellow

Avis is from Long Beach, California and is a graduate of California State University (CSU), Long Beach where she received a BA in Human Development, Psychology, and Sociology. While at CSU Long Beach, Avis served as a student representative on various university committees and a member of the Board of Directors for the Associated Students. A committed campus leader, Avis was awarded the Excellence in Service Award, Rotary Millennium Scholarship and the Excellence in Leadership Award. She was also an Academic Advisor at the Bickerstaff Center for Student Athletes, Young Black Scholars, Inc. and the SOAR Program. After graduating from CSU Long Beach, Avis joined Greenlining as part of the 2011 Summer Associate cohort and researched affordable mortgage products for low to moderate income homebuyers.



Alexis Dennis

Health Fellow

Alexis is from Marietta, Georgia and received her BA in Communication Studies with a minor in African American Studies from the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. While at UNC, Alexis received numerous honors and awards including the Public Service Scholarship, the LeaderShape Palmer Award, and the Robertson Scholarship. As chair of the Black Student Movement, she created and organized an annual service learning trip in which UNC students taught sex education to 7th-12th grade youth in Sunflower, Mississippi. Alexis is passionate about alleviating disparities in low-income and minority communities and understands the relationship between health and community economic sustainability. She was exposed to public policy while working as an intern at Planned Parenthood Federation of America and hopes to gain a broader perspective on health policy through her fellowship.



John Christian “JC” De Vera
Communications Fellow

JC is from San Jose California and holds a BA in Sociology and Asian American Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). A longtime advocate for LGBT and Pilipino communities, JC was external vice president of Samahang Pilipino at UCLA. He was also a student lobbyist and conference delegate for the UCLA Undergraduate Students Associate Council External Vice President's Office and a student-elected Facilities Commissioner representing 26,000 undergraduates on issues of affordability, holistic education, and diversity. JC demonstrated his academic achievement as a recipient of the UCLA Pilipino Alumni Association Distinguished Student two years in a row as well as the Edward Scott Morrison LGBT Scholarship Honor. He recently completed an internship with the Asian American A-Z Agency where he conducted market research for their media and public relations team.



Chanelle Pearson

Research Fellow

Chanelle is from Brooklyn, New York and received her BA in Women's Studies and Spanish from DePauw University. While at DePauw University, Chanelle was a Posse Foundation Full-Tuition Leadership scholar and mentor. She is also a graduate of New York University (NYU) Wagner School of Public Service where she received a Master's in Public Administration with a focus on public policy analysis. Chanelle demonstrated her interest and passion for research as an Adjunct Professor of applied statistics at NYU and as an intern for the Women of Color Policy Network where she drafted reports on child care affordability and subsidy policies. Chanelle was also an intern at the Institute for Women's Policy Research where she collected data on the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's sex and race discrimination cases.



Divya Sundar

Community Reinvestment Fellow

Divya is from San Jose, California and received a BA in History from the University of Chicago with a focus on protest and resistance movements. Divya has worked extensively on social justice issues both in the U.S. and internationally. While at the University of Chicago, she served as a coordinator and community liaison for the University Community Service Center and Southside Solidarity Network raising awareness and building a bridge between the campus community and the surrounding neighborhood. Divya also worked as an intern for the Human Rights Law Network and Citizens for Peace and Justice, both in Mumbai, India, and studied African Civilizations in Cape Town, South Africa under the guidance of her professors. Divya's senior thesis explored caste, class, religious and geographic fissures in the postcolonial Indian Women's Movement.