

## 2018 \$5,000 Access Services WTS-LA Scholarship Winner: Clare Blackwell



*Clare Blackwell (2018 \$5,000 Access Services WTS-LA Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient), 2019*

An undergraduate student at Scripps College (one of the Claremont Colleges), Clare Blackwell is majoring in environmental analysis: sustainability and the built environment. To some, learning how cities work can prove challenging or tiresome. But to Ms. Blackwell, well, she's just carrying on a family tradition. "I have always had an interest in the way cities work. Growing up in San Francisco, my dad, who worked for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, often took me around the city on public transportation, telling me all about the new bus routes he helped to implement and how these changes would affect the city's residents. Ever since then I have enjoyed summer classes in urban planning at local art colleges, designing public spaces often with a geographical or socio-political challenge in mind. I was very intrigued by the challenges I faced in these scenarios, which is part of the reason I chose my major."

Ms. Blackwell takes her charge most seriously. From a class taught entirely on bicycles to spending the fall studying sustainability in cities throughout Europe, she brings her passion for the subject with her in every form. But where will this all ultimately lead for her? "I want to continue to make a difference at the local level after I graduate from college, because I believe that local politics are often the most influential in making a change in people's lives, particularly in the realm of transportation and urban planning." It almost sounds like she's taking a page from the Access Services handbook.

But Access is not the only one that recognizes Ms. Blackwell's potential. According to Pitzer College professor Lance M. Neckar, "Clare is an excellent student with a straight-A average in my courses, which are the core of the degree track. She is a strong analyst, good problem solver, and solid team player in my experience working with her."

Professor Neckar also cites Ms. Blackwell's tireless work ethic and unique affinity for her subject of study. He adds, "Clare has also been a leading figure in organizing interest in all of the professional fields related to urban design across the colleges as one of the co-conveners of the student group, Designing Urban Spaces. This group has been influential in providing students with programming that introduces liberal arts students to the issues faced by urbanized regions—especially LA—with a special focus on the built environment." It sounds like Ms. Blackwell is well on her way to changing the world by starting locally. For these reasons and many more, Access Services is proud to name Clare Blackwell winner of the 2018 \$5,000 Access Services WTS-LA Undergraduate Scholarship.