



Isabel (Izzy) Breit came to Lehigh from Denver, CO. She was drawn to Lehigh because it offers students the “best of both worlds—small, personal classes as well as the school spirit and extracurricular clubs and activities that “make it feel like a large university.” She received an academic merit scholarship to Lehigh and knew immediately that she would study English as her major. She graduated with high honors in 2012, completing majors in English plus Political Science as well as a minor in Women’s Studies. She also was a member of the varsity tennis team and Alpha Omicron Pi.

What distinguishes Izzy is her passion for helping others. Because of her dedicated work as a sexual violence peer counselor for “Break the Silence” during all four years, she was awarded Lehigh’s *Positive Impact Award*. Izzy also worked on a social entrepreneurship project in Ghana and studied Race, Gender, and Politics during a semester abroad at the University of Cape Town (South Africa).

Fluent in Spanish (after a semester in Argentina during high school), Izzy used her language skills during a summer legal internship with the Colorado State Public Defender’s Office. She reviewed cases with Spanish speaking clients and also had the opportunity to assist with a high profile homicide case.

After graduating from Lehigh, Izzy joined *Teach For America Chicago* as a member of the Early Childhood Education Initiative. She served as the head teacher for a bilingual preschool classroom on the west side of Chicago from 2012 to 2014, working with ESL learners and children with special needs. While teaching full time, Izzy completed an M.S. in Education, receiving Illinois Teaching Certification with an ESL endorsement. She taught in India during the summer of 2014 through Teach For India.

All of these experiences have reinforced Izzy’s determination to be an advocate for members of marginalized and underprivileged communities. Her internship in a public defender’s office as well as teaching in a low-income community revealed the way “*our system is designed so that certain people and communities are destined for hardship.*” To pursue her commitment to social and legal justice, Izzy enrolled in the University of Denver Law School in fall 2015.

Looking back on her education at Lehigh, Izzy says: “*I have found that a strong foundation in comprehending texts, critical thinking skills, and writing is crucial to my success both in graduate school and in my professional life and those are all skills that I developed through English courses at Lehigh.*”