

## **Zack Blumer: VP of Student Life, VP of National Communications**

### **Why are you interested in these positions??**

After having lived on campus at IU for a semester, there are definitely things that I have enjoyed about the residence halls and things that I might want to change about it. Overall it has been a wonderful experience, but I would like to take a more active role in addressing my admittedly minor issues and the potential issues that my peers may have. Additionally, this position will give me invaluable experience and skills that will undoubtedly help me in my future. I am interested in one day having a career related to public advocacy and management, and a big reason why I am interested in the RHA Executive board because it is a great combination of those two interests. Finally, I honestly enjoy being in leadership positions and think that I typically do well in them, so this is another opportunity for me to improve the experience of both myself and my peers in RHA.

### **How do you feel you would contribute to the Executive Board??**

I think I would bring a certain level of creativity and empathy to the Executive Board. I pride myself on having what I consider to be a unique perspective and method of addressing a problem. It is no secret that RHA does a huge amount of work on campus. There is too much work for RHA to operate perfectly 100% of the time, so problems may arise here and there. When that happens, I think the best thing we can do is have a group of people who think differently and can combine our different ideas to address the issue. Second, having served on several conduct boards last semester, I have not only had my own experience, but heard the experience of several other students in RHA. This has given me a sense of empathy for the students who have had a very different, and in some ways worse, experience than my own. I think that knowing about some of these experiences that students have had is extremely helpful for ensuring that students are able to enjoy themselves and get something positive out of living in the residence halls.

### **What experience have you had that make you qualified for these positions??**

I am on the Academic Engagement committee in the Civic Leaders Center, which means that throughout the last semester I not only learned a huge amount about leadership but also had experience in helping to plan events to keep my peers enthused and happy while much of the campus remains closed. Additionally, as I mentioned before I am on two judicial conduct boards, including the RHA conduct board, which has given me experience doing work for RHA and in hearing many different experiences that students have had with RHA. Prior to attending Indiana University, I had an officer position in my high school's Environmental Awareness club and was captain of my own Track and Field team in addition to coaching a middle school team. These leadership experiences taught me important lessons about leadership and some of the challenges that may come with it, which will certainly help me on the Executive Board.