Ypsilanti Mayor Edmonds in Leadership Program

Ypsilanti mayor Amanda Edmonds will travel to Europe this April as part of a 24-day leadership program. Mayor Edmonds was one of 76 nominees chosen from 600 nominations to be a fellow of the Marshall Memorial Fellows program. The program sends emerging leaders of the United States to Europe to enhance their understanding of transatlantic relations. The program is sponsored by the German Marshall Fund of the United States, a nonpartisan American public think tank and grantmaking institution dedicated to promoting cooperation and understanding between American and European leaders.

Edmonds will travel Europe after her intensive 6-month preparation, study and training. During her stay in Europe, Edmonds will be immersed in policy studies with other fellows from 20 different countries and 13 US states. She will visit Brussels, Belgium (including spending a day at NATO headquarters); Stockholm, Sweden; Rome, Italy; Warsaw, Poland; and Paris, France. During each day she and other American fellows will be meeting with officials around key issues of transatlantic interest. Among those topics that fellows will be meeting with diplomatic, public, and private sector leaders are immigration and refugees, economic conditions, trade, food and sustainability, and leadership. Additionally, Edmonds has arranged her own meetings in some countries, focused on looking at entrepreneurial development support systems for enterprises with social missions.

Edmonds said: “The chance to represent both the City of Ypsilanti and Growing Hope in this international exchange is both exciting and humbling. I have not had the opportunity to travel abroad in this way before, and look forward to an intense journey, learning about how our place fits into a broader intercontinental context. I am excited to bring back connections and ideas to our community that can help us thrive from economic, ecological, and equitable perspectives. The network of fellows and alum of this program will – well beyond this 24 day journey—also provide connections in the US and abroad that can benefit our community in years to come.”