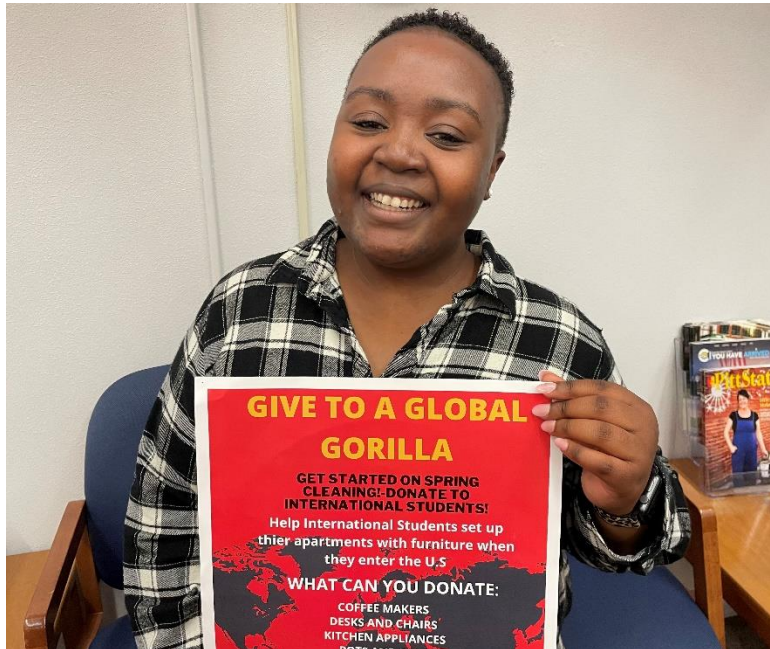




## **PSU international students to benefit from social work student's senior project**



Each year, social work students in their final year at Pittsburg State University must carry out a community project for the class Advanced Social Work as part of the class curriculum. Students are expected to choose a social issue that they would like to address and assist with for the project.

This year, international students will be the focus on one senior's project. Nyasha 'Amanda' Makunike, of Zimbabwe, chose to create a project to help meet the needs of international students at PSU by assisting them in finding household necessities and furniture once they arrive in Pittsburg.

"I chose the international students mostly because I am most familiar with this social issue," she said. "International Students come into the United States with so many expectations of what America will be like because of what we see in the media and on Television. So sometimes when we get to a new place, we might not be fully prepared with what we need. I saw this as an opportunity to provide assistance to the students who (like me), would need help setting up their apartments to feel like their 'home away from home.'"

Makunike collects information from international students about their needs through an online survey, then works to have those needs met through donations that come in. She hopes that all students who express a need will have it met, and that they will feel more at home in Pittsburg knowing they are supported by members of the community.

According to Makunike, her project is demonstrating the warmth and kindness of the Pittsburg community, and how it can help international students.

"I hope to see International students being a lot more forthcoming in difficulties because they know that there will always be someone who will be willing to assist them," she said. "The Pittsburg Community is so welcoming and loving and we are immensely blessed to be able to be a part of this community."

Makunike knows she made the right decision to choose a project close to her heart, and feels it has been "very rewarding."

"I strongly feel like my project is flowing well because of the heart and passion that I have for the International Student Community," she said.



# Pittsburg State University

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Makunike hopes that her project will have a lasting impact on the students at PSU, and for future students who may choose Pitt State as their “home away from home”.

“Research shows that international students who are away from home, have a much better chance at successful academic performance if they feel more at home in the country that they are doing their studies in,” she said. “I find that to be a great reason to get the community of Pittsburg involved. We want to see more international students choosing to come to the Pittsburg State University because the people here are immensely loving and always make sure that we are happy and feel welcomed.”