Alumni Spotlight  - Nadeen Bir, Advocacy and Organizing Director at Student Action with Farmworkers in Durham, NC

Education/Work History
Nadeen Bir graduated in 2002 with a double major in Political Science and Spanish, with a minor in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. While at the College of Charleston, Nadeen held leadership positions in the Political Science club and Spanish club and had the opportunity to participate in Model OAS and AU, studied abroad in Santiago, Chile, and had a short stint in Student Government. Upon graduating, she was offered an internship with Student Action with Farmworkers to work directly with migrant and seasonal farmworkers teaching English as a Second Language and connecting migrant labor camps to rural churches to build community in Dunn, NC with the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry.

From 2002-2010, Nadeen has held various positions in advocacy organizations, direct service organizations, and a union aiming to improve the lives of Latinos, youth, and workers in North Carolina. Currently, she is the Advocacy and Organizing Director at Student Action with Farmworkers in Durham, NC. Nadeen organizes young people and supports them as they begin to advocate and raise awareness about farm labor conditions in order to improve the laws that effect farmworkers and to hold corporations accountable.

How the political science degree helped get her to where she is today.
"The professors and courses at the College of Charleston in both the Political Science Department and in the Hispanic Studies Department were key in my development as a leader in the social justice movement because I received a strong educational foundation, learned how to build relationships, and was further introduced to the Hispanic/Latino culture(s) and language(s). This base helped to propel me to the leadership roles that I have had since graduating in 2002."

Advice to current political science students
"My advice to students is to identify issues you are passionate about, what skills you want to improve, and seek out mentors and folks that you admire. Take advantage of the many leadership opportunities at the College of Charleston such as student clubs, studying abroad, and resources about internships and jobs. It is important to engage in campus activities, take that extra initiative to be a leader of a student group, participate in community service, but above all prioritize your studies and really engage with your professors and each class that you take. I learned a lot of skills from C of C student clubs that I still use today such as recruiting volunteers, delegating tasks, public speaking, coordinating events, fundraising, and designing fliers."