Katie Raynard (BFA, apparel and textile design, 2015), left, with Myisha Smiley (psychology senior) modeling one of Raynard’s Fashion for the Fire designs. Below: One of Raynard’s 2014 ATD Fashion Show entries Windmill.

FASHION FOR THE FIRE

Involvement leads to Diversity Award

In collaboration with the Firecracker Foundation, senior MSU apparel and textile design students Katie Raynard and Anami Chan co-directed Fashion for the Fire, an avant-garde fashion show and auction held in April 2014 at The Runway in downtown Lansing to raise awareness and funds to fight against sexual assault, and support childhood survivors in the Lansing community.

"I was honored and excited to share my designs with the community as a means of advocating and supporting the fight against sexual assault," Raynard says. "Proceeds from the show's ticket sales and auction of fashion accessories went to the Firecracker Foundation."

In large part due to the Fashion for the Fire event, Raynard received the Michigan State University Excellence in Diversity Award for "Students Making a Difference through Artistic Expressions." She was cited for demonstrating and utilizing her creative talents to artistically express civil and human rights at MSU.

Students Stephen Foster (Studio Arts) and Rebekah Blesing (Studio Arts, MFA), as well as the College’s Department of Theatre, also received awards.

CE funds Fashion for the Fire

In 2014, Raynard was awarded a competitive entrepreneurship grant to work on Fashion for the Fire from Pathways, a Creativity Exploratory (CE) group within the College of Arts and Letters that funds the incubation of creative entrepreneurship. The CE serves the College and its students as a creativity laboratory, an innovative space, and an entrepreneurial catalyst.

Says Raynard, "The CE came on board with this project very early on and, throughout, has continued to connect us with resources to further help us attain our goals. This support allowed us to expand our vision for the show."

About the Firecracker Foundation

The Firecracker Foundation is a nonprofit organization working to honor the bravery of children who have survived sexual trauma by building a community invested in the healing of their whole being.