

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2017 Cohort



Faith Adeola

Internship site: Fredrikson & Byron, P. A.
University of Saint Thomas

Faith Adeola is currently a senior majoring in Biology of Global Health at the University of St. Thomas. She hopes to pursue a career in the public health field around the issues of health education, health disparities, and health policy.

As a student at the University of St. Thomas, she has served in numerous leadership roles. Faith has been the President of the Black Empowerment Student Alliance for the last two years. She has also served as an apartment coordinator for the last two years as well. Other leadership roles she has served in include: Summer 2015 Orientation Leader, Peer Advisor for the Reaching Excellence in Academics and Leadership Program and a Linkages Mentor (mentored an incoming first year student). Outside of school, Faith has interned with the Office of Senator Franken during the fall of 2016. Faith is very passionate about issues pertaining to healthcare and is looking forward to learning more about healthcare policies in her role as an intern.



Halimat Alawode

Internship site: Minnesota Department of Human Rights
St. Catherine University

Halimat Alawode is currently in her 4th year at St. Catherine University majoring in Women and International Development and minoring in Women Studies. Her goal is to pursue a public policy career focused on uplifting communities of color by investing in women of color.

During her undergraduate career, Halimat has interned with the office of Congressman Keith Ellison, the Minnesota Women's Consortium and The Advocates for Human Rights. Currently she still maintains a research assistantship with the Economic Department of St. Catherine University. She recently attended the Middle East Studies Association conference to present on her research paper *Inequality of Opportunity: Higher Education in the Middle East and North Africa*, co-authored by Dr. Caroline Krafft. The working paper was recently released by the Economic Research Forum as well as their coinciding policy perspective. Her goal for her time spent with Capitol Pathways is to witness and participate in on the ground policy work. Not only will she be able to bring her acquired skills to the internship but gain new ones that will prove vital to her public policy career.

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2017 Cohort



Xitlalitl Andrade

Internship Site: Minnesota Environmental Partnership
St. Catherine University

Xitlalitl is currently a senior at Saint Catherine's University majoring in International Business and Economics and double minoring in Accounting and Sales. Xitlalitl is a first generation student and plans to continue her educational endeavors by obtaining her master's degree in the future.

During her undergraduate career Xitlalitl was inducted into Delta Mu Delta (DMD) an International Society in Business. Through her participation at DMD she has been able to volunteer at Dress for Success, an international not-for-profit organization that empowers women to achieve economic independence. She is also an active member of the Latina Student Association (LSA). An

association that provides a system of support for Latina students brings greater awareness of issues concerning Latina students and offers service to the broader Latina/o community of the Twin Cities.

Xitlalitl is very passionate about issues pertaining to the environment, social justice, and global economic issues. She applied for the Capitol Pathways Internship because of her interest in public policy and to gain a deeper understanding of the legislative system.



Daisy Buenrostro

Internship site: Ed Allies
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Daisy Buenrostro is currently a sophomore at the University of Minnesota pursuing a political science degree with an emphasis in international relations and affairs. She is the first in her family to graduate from high school and attend college and is passionate about helping those who are underrepresented and underprivileged. Daisy currently volunteers for Cedar Riverside Adult Education where she teaches English to adult

immigrants and refugees who primarily are East African. She is also a Peer Mentor for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Program (MLK) where she supports students from historically underrepresented backgrounds in academic planning and resource support.

With a passion for politics, humanitarian rights and equality, Daisy hopes to pursue a career in government, specifically in diplomacy or in non-profits. Through the Capitol Pathway internship program, she hopes to learn more about how local public policy works while gaining new interest in local government in order to help her community in Minnesota.

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2017 Cohort



Jama Bulhan

Internship site: The Office of Senator John Marty
Hamline University

Jama Bulhan is a senior at Hamline University double majoring in Education and Social Justice with a concentration in Youth in African Immigrant & Refugee Communities. He is the co-founder of Dollar for Dishes, an organization dedicated to raising money to address the 2014 drought in Somalia. On campus, Jama was a part of HASA (Hamline African Student Association), in which he coordinated events and informed organizations and universities about Hamline's activities and accomplishments.

Additionally, Jama is a mentor to youth in middle and high school throughout the metro through the McVay Youth Partnership program. He is interested in attending law school to focus on legislation regarding public education in an effort to address and alleviate disparities amongst disenfranchised communities.

Jama interned for Minneapolis Council Member Abdi Warsame in Ward 6 and worked on a public housing project in partnership with Minneapolis Public Housing Authority in addition to other projects. As a part of the summer 2016 Urban Scholars cohort, he extended his internship with Council Member Warsame. Jama applied for Capitol Pathways because he wants the opportunity to work with lawmakers at the state level and hopes to break barriers by creating pathways for people of color.



Antonio Carmona-Elias

Internship site: Minnesota Council of Latino Affairs
University of Minnesota -Twin Cities

Antonio Elias is currently a senior at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities pursuing a Political Science and Geography degree. He is a Mexican-American, raised in Mexico and came to the U.S. at the age of 16. Antonio is a first generation college student and is the oldest out of three siblings. He hopes to attend Law School or pursue a degree in Higher Education.

Throughout his college career, Antonio was exposed to a variety of experiences that enhanced his leadership skills as well as his professional career. Antonio currently works for Minneapolis Public Schools as a Facilitator for the CPEO Program (Connecting Parents to Educational Opportunities). He works with low-income parents and helps them understand how influential they can be in their children's lives through active participation in their children's educational career. His end goal is to see our youth succeed by enhancing their educational opportunities. Antonio is currently working on writing a book where he would share his experiences in pursuing the American Dream. In his near future, he sees himself creating a scholarship foundation to help first generation students afford a post-secondary education. He looks forward to working side by side with the Minnesota Council of Latino Affairs and learning about policymaking, as well as advocating and lobbying for the Latino community.

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2017 Cohort



Nitya Chandiramani

Internship site: MN Dept. of Employment and Economic Development
University of Minnesota - Rochester

Nitya Chandiramani is a senior at the University of Minnesota Rochester pursuing a major in Health Sciences. After gaining some work experience in the healthcare industry, Nitya hopes to pursue a graduate program in either Public Health Policy or Healthcare Administration. She eventually hopes to work on healthcare reform issues through administration, policy, and innovation to improve the patient experience and healthcare processes.

Nitya had been involved with a variety of research experiences, and currently works as a research assistant through the UMTC Program in Health Disparities on a clinical study involving a mindfulness based-stress reduction intervention in cardiac patients. She used to work in a neurobiology research lab at the Mayo Clinic and was a blog writer for Mayo Clinic's Center for Innovation. Nitya published a scientific article with her sociology professor and a physician from Mayo Clinic two years ago, and is currently in the process of co-publishing two separate book chapters with the mentors from her aforementioned research assistant positions. Nitya is passionate about social justice, health disparities, access to health services, and current policy issues. She applied for the Capitol Pathways Internship to learn how to develop the skills and gain the legislative exposure necessary to make the changes she wishes to see in her community a reality.



Toan Doan

Internship site: Minnesota Citizens for the Arts
Macalester College

Toan Thanh Doan is currently a sophomore at Macalester College. He is majoring in International Studies with double minors in Psychology and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Toan is interested in working with non-profit organizations for human rights and gender equality. Toan works as program specialist for Macalester's Institute for Global Citizenship. He organizes community-wide panels to engage students with local and global issues and also supported the logistical management of Macalester's 23rd Annual International Roundtable on urban sustainability.

In 2016, Toan founded The Circles Project - a non-profit dedicated to integrating informative and inclusive sex education to high schools in Vietnam. In January 2017, The Circles Project was funded by Macalester Dream It Live It fund to organize its first sex education workshops in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam for high school teachers and students. Prior to Macalester, Toan served as an executive team member of Project Sugar, a non-profit providing resources for underprivileged and HIV/AIDS-infected children in southern Vietnam. He is also a performing artist who enjoys dancing, acting, and writing.

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2017 Cohort



Anna Fineanganofa

Internship site: Fresh Energy
Macalester College

Anna Fineanganofa is a junior majoring in Political Science and Applied Mathematics and Statistics at Macalester College. She is originally from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She is interested in community organizing and policy work focused toward gaining equity for marginalized communities. During Anna's first year in Minnesota, she interned with Representative

Keith Ellison's campaign. This past election cycle, she interned with the campaign of Erin Maye Quade for the Minnesota House. Her main work with these campaigns was to speak with community members to learn about their values and discuss their ideas on what they want for their communities. Anna has also interned with the ACLU of Minnesota and was able to learn more about how the judicial system in Minnesota works. Anna finds that understanding political institutions and processes is empowering and will allow her to do meaningful work with marginalized communities.

Anna also enjoys working with education. Anna has been tutoring the same student one on one with CommonBond since her sophomore year. This past summer, she also had the opportunity to teach a creative writing course for adults with developmental disabilities. Anna really enjoyed reading her students' work and helping them publish their own creative pieces in a book. Anna is currently working as an after school program assistant at West 7th community center in the 5th-6th grade classroom. She is also currently working on a project that allows Macalester students to learn alongside members of the community modeled after book clubs. Anna enjoys learning in nonacademic spaces and appreciates any opportunity to interact with the broader Twin Cities community.



Gabriella Gillespie

Internship site: Education Minnesota
Macalester College

Gabriella Gillespie is a senior at Macalester College majoring in Political Science and minoring in Hispanic Studies. She has worked as a tutor and coordinator for the Ramsey-Macalester Tutoring Program and currently works as a Resident Assistant and Information Officer at the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. She is also a co-facilitator of the Black Women of the Diaspora Identity Collective, an organization focused on providing a safe space for black women to explore and embrace their identities. She will graduate in May 2017 and plans to pursue graduate school in the near future.

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2017 Cohort



Jordan Groll

Internship site: Association of Minnesota Counties
Augsburg College

Jordan Groll is a senior at Augsburg College and is a Communication Studies major. Jordan began his college career as a Marketing Major but realized that he did not just want to make money with his life but he wanted to make a difference in his community as well. His past three years of work experience have come from working tough labor jobs primarily for ServiceMaster of St. Louis Park. Working these jobs taught Jordan that helping people who are in need is one of the greatest joys life can offer.

As a graduate of Augsburg's TRIO/SSS program in 2013, a program that focuses on helping students overcome socioeconomic barriers, Jordan realized that similar programs—such as the Capitol Pathways program—offers many opportunities. Jordan's interest in policy stems from wanting to work towards making positive changes for not only his community, but for those who often feel like their voices are not being heard. He is passionate about helping others and is looking forward to getting started!



Marco Hernandez

Internship site: Minnesota Department of Commerce
Macalester College

Marco Hernandez is a sophomore at Macalester College pursuing a major in Political Science and Latin American Studies. He is very interested in becoming a public servant in the future

Marco is very active on campus and in the community. He is the Public Relations officer for the Latinx student org on campus called Adelante. Adelante helped him cope in a new environment with a very small Latinx population and he felt that it was his duty to get involved and give back to the organization. Marco is also the sophomore class representative in Macalester College's Student Government (MCSG). This year as a representative, he helped charter Macalester Republicans to provide a space for Republicans to safely speak their minds on campus. Marco is also very active in Macalester Democrats. In Macalester Democrats, they mobilize the Democrats on campus to campaign during an election cycle. Marco is interested in increasing the number of people of color in our government. He wants to run for office one day to provide a voice to a large group of people that has very little representation in legislatures across the country.

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2017 Cohort



Kou Hang

Internship site: Ewald Consulting
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Kevin is a third year student at the University of Minnesota Twin cities studying Sociology of Law, Criminology, and Deviance. Kevin is a first generation college student and is the youngest child from a family of seven children. He plans to attend law school and pursue a career seeking justice for marginalized communities.

Kevin is adamant about supporting his communities which has led to his involvement in various community led organizations. He is currently serving as the advocacy chair for the Asian American Student Union of Minnesota. Within his role, Kevin is in charge of advocacy initiatives to educate students and community members on current issues affecting the Asian American community. He has interned for Neighborhoods Organizing for Change and has served as advocacy chair for the Philippine Student Association of Minnesota as well. He applied to the Capitol Pathway Internship because of his interest in legislation in the government. He understands that there is a lack of representation for people of color in these policy making positions and has taken it upon himself to be a part of the system.

He is also interested in traveling abroad, reading books, and learning new skills. During the summers, he is a tennis coach for a non-profit tennis organization, Saint Paul Urban Tennis, which strives to provide free or low-cost tennis lessons to the children of Saint Paul.



Hannah Hoeger

Internship site: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Hamline University

Hannah is a second year student at Hamline University majoring in Global and Environmental Studies. She was born in Dongguan, China and is passionate about helping people and the environment. Her experience as an intern for Urban Organic Farms fostered her passion to educate youth, increase food accessibility for low income families and work with land sustainability. As an intern, she had the pleasure of developing a diverse, regenerative, certified organic fruit and vegetable urban farm. She loved doing outreach work and communicating the organization's vision to the community because it allowed her to do hands-on work with the people directly receiving the food or working to build the farm. With

these experiences, she hopes to carry my passions abroad and work with different cultures to preserve their land and empower their communities.

She applied for the Capitol Pathways program because it will allow her to gain hands on work with state capitol leaders and provide insight into what a possible career in government service may look like. In addition, she would benefit from working with students and capitol leaders who have similar goals and aspirations to reshape the future for the better.

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2017 Cohort



Antonio Hunt

Internship site: City of Minneapolis
Augsburg College

Antonio Hunt is currently a junior at Minneapolis Community and Technical College majoring in Registered Nursing. He was born in Chicago but raised in North Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is known to be a young black inspirational leader who impacts others to follow their dreams. Antonio has been involved with many organizations and events like Northside Community Forums, Project Success, Million Artist Moment, Alafia Foundation and more that would provide change and new future growth for his community and the state. When Antonio found this opportunity to be part of the Capitol Pathways Internship, he knew it would be a stepping stone for him to move forward in making change for the State of

Minnesota. This is Antonio's first Internship and he plans to commit by learning and developing new skills and making new connections because he has big plans for his future to come.



Shaunequa James

Internship site: NAMI Minnesota
St. Catherine University

Shaunequa James is a senior at St. Catherine University majoring in Social Work. Once she finishes her undergraduate degree, Shaunequa hopes to continue her educational endeavors by obtaining her master's degree.

While at St Catherine University, Shaunequa was inducted into the Phi Alpha - Beta Epsilon honors society for social work. She currently serves on various committees within the honors society. In addition to her Beta Epsilon commitments, Shaunequa is an intern for Hennepin County Juvenile Probation.

Through her position as a probation aide, Shaunequa serves adolescents who are currently going through the juvenile justice system. Prior to her work with Hennepin County, Shaunequa interned with Perspectives Inc. in their parenting time program where she was later hired as a program coordinator.

When she's not at school or an internship, Shaunequa enjoys spending time with her husband and four children. It was through having a family that she realized her passion for helping others. She hopes that the Capitol Pathways program will help guide the policy work that she intends to do when she is in her chosen field and aid her in positively influencing the lives of children and families everywhere.

Bashiru Kormah

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2017 Cohort



Internship site: Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness
Augsburg College

BK Kormah is a second-year student at Augsburg College. He strongly believes that we have to be the change that we want to see so he's majoring in International Relations and International Business to prepare himself.

BK's dream is to work for the U.S Department of State or the United Nation as an Ambassador or Foreign Affair Officer. With that being said, he is the Public Relations Officer for Augsburg Day Student Government. He is an active member of the Augsburg Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Committee, the Networking Committee, Student for Racial Justice and more.

Bk is from a diverse background. He was born in Liberia and moved to Minnesota when he was nine years old. He's extremely positive, enthusiastic, passionate and inquisitive. He enjoys playing soccer, spending time with family and using his musical gift to be creative and lively.

Bk is participating in the Capitol Pathway program because from his experiences as an intern at Breakthrough Twin Cities and ISD 279 Community Engagement, he has learned a lot and this program will be a perfect opportunity for him to keep growing so he can be the best Foreign Affair Officer or Ambassador he can be



Dralandra Larkins

Internship site: Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers
Minneapolis Community and Technical College

Dralandra Larkins attends Minneapolis Community and Technical College as a Social Work major and Psychology minor. She has held leadership positions at Augsburg College such as Freshman class Senator as well as being in the Emerging Leaders Program. Before that, she was Senior Class President at her high school South high.

Dralandra was awarded one of Minneapolis Extraordinary students by Achieve Minneapolis along with receiving a scholarship. She has interned with The Brandlab Program, their primary focus was to make marketing and business more diverse. Upon getting the internship, she realized just how passionate she was about political change and social advocacy. This is one of the reasons why she wants to intern with the Capitol Pathways Program. The program seeks more diversity in government and she believes it would provide the opportunity to learn more about public policy and the benefits of nonprofits in government agencies—which she hopes to one day be part of.

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2017 Cohort



Brenda Llapa

Internship site: Great Plains Institute
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Brenda is a junior at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and she is double majoring in Political Science and Sociology of Law, Crime, and Deviance. Additionally, she is also minoring in Social Justice. She is interested in all sorts of things and her career history has shown this. She was a Congressional Intern for Congressman Keith Ellison during the 2016 fall semester and in the past was a Community Conference

Coordinator at Restorative Justice Community Action.

As a student at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, she is a current general member at La Raza and in the past, was a part of the board acting as the Secretary. She strives to provide a welcoming vibe for all the new people that come into La Raza. She also volunteers for any project that La Raza comes across as she wants to help establish a bigger presence in the community.



Clifton Manneh

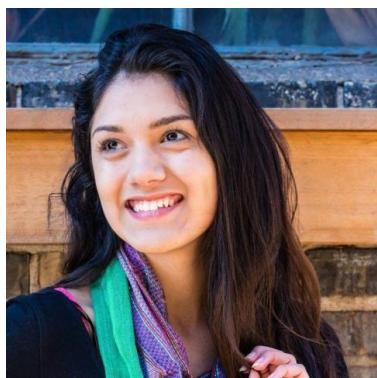
Internship site: Transit for Livable Communities
North Hennepin Community College

Clifton Manneh is a first generation college student attending North Hennepin community College with a major in Business Management. He will be attending Augsburg College starting fall of 2017.

Born in Liberia but raised in America, his family fled to the United States seeking refuge after escaping Liberia's brutal civil war. They struggled like many immigrants moving around constantly from one apartment to another and sometimes different states. He believes that regardless of your current residence, education or social status, one must never depart from his/her

roots. Through all of his experiences, he started NSS media to educate, raise awareness, and give humanity and its many different cultures a voice by creating a social but yet, inclusive platform to broadcast local and international news. Clifton is one of the prominent leaders of Black Men's Leadership Movement at North Hennepin Community College which educates all men of color on both institutional and systemic racism. Through this leadership initiative, the men gain insightful knowledge on how to overcome come day-to-day barriers and how to become advocates for their communities.

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2017 Cohort



Brenda Marquez Ramos

Internship site: Catholic Charities
Minneapolis Community and Technical College

Brenda is currently attending Minneapolis Community and Technical College to complete her Community Development degree. Currently, Brenda works for Pillsbury United Communities Waite House as the Middle School Lead for the youth program. Brenda has a strong passion for working with the people in the community to ensure that they have the resources, opportunities and necessary support to ensure they live safe and fulfilled lives. She wants to intern with the Capitol Pathways program because it would be a way for her

to be involved in what is happening in her community. Interning in the program will bring her insight and teach her ways to be involved and bring change to her community.



Sean Mock

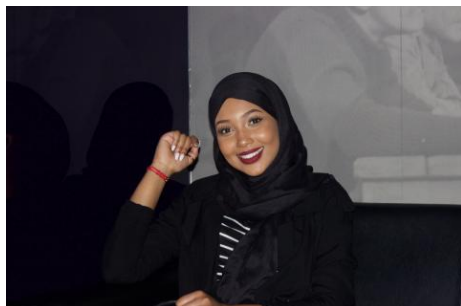
Internship Site: Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
Macalester College

Sean Mock is a senior Honors student in political science at Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. After graduating, Sean hopes to combine his legislative and communications skills to advocate for progressive public policy at the state or federal level.

At Macalester, Sean is conducting a yearlong Honors research project on Hmong American political representation. On campus, he mentors first generation college students, students of color, and international students through the Emerging Scholars Program. Off campus, Sean is volunteering as a tax preparer during the 2017 tax season, helping maximize tax credit refunds for low and moderate-income individuals and families. Sean's interest in the policy process has taken him from the Minnesota Senate to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington D.C.-based think tank. In his free time, Sean plays water polo and tries to force himself to hop in the pool during winter.

Sean applied to the Capitol Pathways program to work on housing issues in the legislature. Born and raised in San Francisco, California, Sean has seen firsthand the importance of creating and preserving affordable housing. He looks forward to working with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency this coming legislative session.

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2017 Cohort



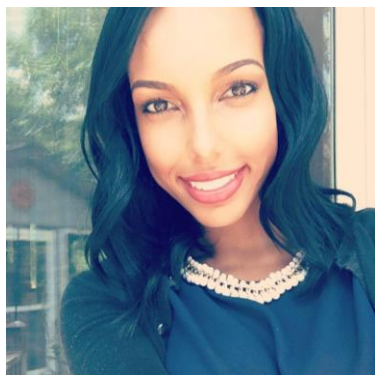
Kowsar Mohamed

Internship site: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Kowsar is a first generation college student attending the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, where she is majoring in Global Studies and Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management with a focus in environmental sustainability policies in Africa. She is passionate about the human dimensions of natural resources and understanding

how human beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors associated with landscape affect sustainable land use planning and policies. With encouragement from friends and neighbors, she was able to start the Cedar-Riverside Youth Council in 2007 with other community youth. The council is designed to serve, listen to and represents local youth in all matters of civic interest and need. In her free time, she enjoys reading global governance research articles with friends and watching Netflix Original Series.

She sought out the opportunity to participate in the Capitol Pathways program in order to further develop her professional skills and gain new insight on how State Government functions. She is also looking forward to relationship building with Capitol leaders and other stakeholders because they are an important factor in learning more about the policy sector; a field she is highly interested in.



Britta Momanyi

Internship site: Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Britta Momanyi is a junior at the University of Minnesota. She is majoring in Political Science and Sociology of Law, Criminology, and Deviance; she is also minoring in History. On campus, she is Secretary of Pre-Law Society. Britta is passionate about maintaining an attitude of volunteerism. That being said, she has volunteered at Minnesota Spay and Neuter Project, Goodwill, and Veap in the past. Currently, she volunteers for WATCH, a judicial policy non-profit, which works to ensure judicial responsiveness to crimes against

women and children. Britta also serves as a paralegal in the Minnesota Army National Guard. She is proud to serve this country and hopes to one day continue her service through work in the public sector. Besides her involvement in the Army National Guard and her service work, she enjoys traveling, cooking, and lifting weights.

After completing her Bachelor's degree, Britta plans on attending law school. Eventually, she would like to work as a public defender and one day become involved in politics. She is passionate about social justice and strives to advocate for increased diversity in the political realm. Therefore, she applied for the Capitol Pathways Program internship because she was interested in becoming familiarized with the legislative process in the hopes of one day holding an active role in Minnesotan politics.

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2017 Cohort



Alboury Ndiaye

Internship site: Minnesota Private College Council
University of St. Thomas

Alboury Ndiaye is a third year student at the University of St. Thomas. He is currently pursuing a degree in political science with a focus on public policy and international relations. With a Senegalese father and an American mother who worked for the United States Agency for International Development, most of Alboury's childhood

was spent overseas moving from country to country. He has lived in South Africa, Ghana, Senegal, and Egypt. Alboury's family currently lives in Dakar, Senegal.

Over the years, his time and connections overseas have allowed him to intern at United States embassies in both Cairo and Dakar, giving him the opportunity to become involved in our nation's diplomatic and developmental efforts abroad. Alboury hopes to continue to expand upon his professional experience through the Capitol Pathways internship and strongly believes that the hands on legislative experience and bi-partisan focus of the program will help him pursue his ambitions later in life. In his free time, Alboury enjoys playing drums and guitar, reading, and exploring nature.



Oluwatobi Oluwagbemi

Internship site: Minnesota Secretary of State
St. Cloud State University

Oluwatobi Oluwagbemi is a senior majoring in International Relations and Women Studies at St. Cloud State University. Oluwatobi is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, National Society of Leadership and Success and NASPA a foundation that works to advance the leadership of students in higher education by recognizing and honoring exceptional students. She is currently the president/founder of the Honor Society on her campus. She has served in several organizations like student government, university ambassador and national society for leadership and success taking leadership roles and making a difference on her campus.

She is a contributor to the University Newspaper and writes for Odyssey (a blog for college students). She has also interned for the local Democratic Farmer Labor Party Campaign in St. Cloud. She volunteers with several cultural organizations like the African Students Organization and the Multicultural Student Services. She is interested in advocating for women, being an author and also being a public and motivational speaker. She loves writing and building leadership skills. She also wants to be a diplomat and lecturer in the future. Ultimately Oluwatobi wants to be able to make a difference in the world in education, women's empowerment and global development, just like Michelle Obama.

She applied for Capitol Pathways because she wanted experience working with government in order to learn skills that will help her work with foreign governments too. She also wants to gain leadership skills so that she can encourage more students to take on leadership roles in her community.

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2017 Cohort



Emily Saldivar

Internship site: Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
Augsburg College

Emily Saldivar is a second year student at Augsburg College majoring in Political Science. She is currently the treasurer of Augsburg's Latin American Students group on campus. Emily is also a member of LEAD Fellows (Leaders for Equity, Action, and Democracy). Within her role with LEAD Fellows, Emily mentors high school students in Minneapolis at Cedar Commons. Emily applied for the Capitol Pathways internship because she has always been interested in public policy work and would

like to be the governor one day. After Augsburg, Emily plans to attend Law School.



Claudia Isela Sanchez-Santoyo

Internship site: Sierra Club North Star Chapter
Augsburg College

Claudia Sanchez-Santoyo is a recent graduate from Augsburg College with a B.A. in International Relations. In March 2016, she served as a Student Delegate in the National Model United Nations (NMUN) in New York City. She studied complex global economic issues and collaborated with other Delegates to ensure draft resolutions were comprehensive, accurate and representative. In her experience, democracy is an active force that must be nurtured, challenged and supported.

Claudia has a passion for working in government systems and insisting they are fair and fully represent their constituents. Capitol Pathways' mission to encourage emerging leaders of color to positively impact government and increase representation, is a testament to the kind of opportunities that enable her to utilize her talents and contribute to the cause. She feels a profound responsibility to participate in complex government organizations, and hopes to continue serving at the highest level. Claudia is eager to work in organizations where she can fully implement her experience and knowledge.

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2017 Cohort



Madison Smith

Internship site: Aspire Minnesota
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Madison Smith is currently a sophomore at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities with a plan to double major in Family Social Science and Ojibwe. For the past year, Madison has been volunteering at the American Indian Student Cultural Center located in Coffman Memorial at the University of Minnesota. Volunteering at the AISCC entails working the center's desk, promoting and volunteering at all events held by the AISCC. Besides volunteering at the American Indian Student Cultural Center, Madison has previously volunteered for the Golden Eagle Program at the American Indian Center located in South Minneapolis. While volunteering for the Golden Eagle Program, Madison was given the opportunity to work with the Native youth and promote resiliency and healthy choices.

After Madison's experience volunteering with the Golden Eagle Program she was inspired to take this work further. After witnessing all the different cultures the Twin Cities has to offer, Madison wants to assist these communities by being an advocate for them to the dominant society. Working with the Native youth has influenced Madison to want to work closely with public policy, social injustices, children and the proper cultural development and the psychological aspects of each of these. Through the Capitol Pathways, Madison is hoping to gain knowledge in public policy and advocacy.



Chue Thao

Internship site: Xcel Energy
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Chue Thao is a senior with a Human Resource Industrial Relations Major and a minor in Leadership at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and will graduate this May 2017. He is the oldest in his family and the first one to go to college in his family. He values self-development, family and education. This past May 2016, Chue studied abroad in Bali. He learned about the culture, language and arts that forms leadership in Bali. Chue enjoys helping others, as he has gone with Students Today Leaders Forever during spring 2016 on a road trip to serve in service projects. He bonded with colleagues to work on team building and trained on leadership skills. Leadership is part of Chue's interest. He applied for this internship program for a chance to increase his leadership skills and communication skills. Chue is also looking forward to creating connections within this internship program.

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2017 Cohort



Devona Thomas

Internship site: Lutheran Social Service of MN
University of Minnesota -Twin Cities

Devona Thomas is currently a junior at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. She is working towards achieving a bachelor's degree within her double majors of Sociology of Law, Criminology and Deviance and African American Studies along with a minor in Fine Arts. With graduation approaching fairly soon, Devona is looking towards a career in law as she is considering attending law school and working within the field of criminal justice. As for her present status in life and school, Devona currently works within the University of Minnesota's program, President's Emerging Scholars, holding a position of a Peer Mentor as she helps guide students from freshmen year to sophomore year with advice and mentoring each semester. Additionally, Devona participated within her school's tour guide program of Admissions Ambassadors and holds general membership of her university's Black Student Union.

Through engaging in the Capitol Pathways program, Devona hopes to achieve a strong networking experience and deeper understanding of the legislative system and the process by which policy and law comes into full action within the Minnesota and American culture. Devona aims for these questions to be met through her collaboration with the Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota with whom she will be paired with.



Amira Tsegaye

Internship site: Educators 4 Excellence
Minneapolis Community and Technical College

Amira Tsegaye is currently a second year student at Minneapolis Community & Technical College. She plans on transferring to a four year institution to get her Bachelor's degree in English. She also plans on getting her Master's in Education. In addition to taking classes full time, she works as a writing tutor at the Learning Center on campus. She applied for the Capitol Pathways program because she wants to help improve the education system for all students.

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2017 Cohort



Duy Vu

Internship Site: Minnesota Budget Project
Macalester College

Duy Vu is currently a sophomore student at Macalester College where he double majors in Philosophy and Political Science, with a potential third major in Economics. Duy is originally from Hanoi, Vietnam, and he left his hometown when he was 16 to attend a boarding school in Georgia. He moved to Minnesota two years ago to start his college education at Macalester, and so far he has enjoyed his experience a great deal!

In his first year at Macalester, Duy served on the legislative board of the Student Government as a class representative. In his second year, Duy is working as a Resident Assistant at Macalester. Outside of school, Duy spent the past fall semester working as an intern for the Office of Senator Al Franken in St. Paul, where he gained valuable insights into the political and legislative processes, which then motivated him to apply to the Capitol Pathways program. He appreciates the fact that Capitol Pathways recognizes the importance of having more people of color represented in politics.

Through the program, Duy has been placed to work with the Minnesota Budget Project during the next semester. He looks forward to seeing how this experience will contribute positively to his future career goals working in laws, civil rights and racial equity.



Yang You

Internship site: O'Rourke Strategic Consulting
University of Minnesota -Twin Cities

Yang currently enrolls in the University of Minnesota and is a senior student majoring in Political Science and Supply Chain Management. Yang has strong interest in Minnesota state politics and have completed a few internships in the past including the Mayor's Office, Minnesota Senate, and The Advocates for Human Rights. Through this

program, Yang wants to research and analyze bills, which will provide him a better understanding of Minnesota legislative process and state politics. It is an experience and skill-set he has always wanted to have. In addition, he believes that this internship is a great way to expand his network. He will be able to meet and make relationships with capitol officials, communities' leaders, and other interns who participate in his cohort as well. In his free time, Yang enjoys watercolor painting and swimming.