

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2018 Cohort



Sololiya Baisa

Internship site: Minnesota Department of Education
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Soli is a second year student at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. She is majoring in Elementary Education and Pre-Law with a minor in Family Social Science (Social Work). She is highly passionate about working towards closing the opportunity gap in the education system and ensuring that all humans have access to the powerful tool of quality education. She has interned in the IT field at Target Headquarters and created a student group at her former

high school, and is currently serving as a board member of the U of M Black Student Union. Soli was placed at the Department of Education for Capitol Pathways, which is actually one of the places she had hoped she'd be at for a career.



Zoë Bourgerie

Internship Site: Minnesota Environmental Partnership
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Zoë is currently a senior majoring in Geography with minors in Public Health and Interdisciplinary Design at the University of Minnesota. She hopes to pursue a career where she can better serve and uplift disenfranchised communities. Through her studies, she acquired a great interest in the field of community and economic development in the Twin Cities as it incorporates issues of economic opportunity, improving social equality and engaging communities in local government affairs as well as the importance of non-profit work for improving community well-being.

Last summer, Zoë had the opportunity to participate in the 2017 cohort of Urban Scholars where she was able to gain meaningful professional work experience at Hennepin County but she also benefited from extremely relevant leadership and professional development programming. That rewarding experience led her to apply to the Capitol Pathways program to learn more about the legislative process at the Capitol as well as gain exposure to how local organizations can influence and advocate for greater change here in Minnesota.

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Sherronda Bowden

Internship site: NAMI MN
St. Catherine University

Sherronda is majoring in social work and set to graduate in May 2018. She is completing her senior social work practicum as a case manager with the Interprofessional Center for Counseling and Legal Services at the University of St. Thomas. She is a member of Beta Epsilon, the Social Work Chapter of the Phi Alpha Honor Society and a Social Work Healthcare Education and Leadership Scholar (HEALS). As a scholar, Sherronda is trained in interprofessional teams to increase awareness on issues such as structural racism and healthcare disparities within marginalized communities.

Sherronda also works closely with organizations like Breaking Free to help survivors/victims of human trafficking. These efforts include being an advocate against human exploitation during Super Bowl LII in Minneapolis. Sherronda is passionate about seeing the application of clinical social work theories used as a framework upon which to shape stronger policies for the clients who benefit from social services. She plans to attend graduate school to pursue a Master of Social Work degree shortly after earning her bachelor's degree.



Biftu Bussa

Internship site: Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota
St. Catherine University

Biftu is currently a senior majoring in Public Health with concentrations in Public Policy and Health Sciences and a minor in Psychology at St. Catherine University. She hopes to pursue a career in Health Policy as well as become a Physician's Assistant. Biftu's goal is to focus on issues related to preventative health geared towards holistic approaches to medicine, health disparities and access to healthcare.

As a student at St. Catherine University, Biftu engaged in various leadership opportunities. She was a part of the St. Kate's Activities Team, the LEAD team and the Public Health Club. She served as a MIPS Peer Mentor; an Ask Katie Peer Health Educator, the Transfer Student Coordinator, a First Year Orientation Leader and Transfer Orientation Leader. She has interned at The Advocates for Human Rights and CAPI USA. Currently, Biftu is the Student Senate President, an intern at the Governor's Office of Inclusion, a Research Assistant for the Psychology Department and serves as an AYAH CoIIN Young Adult Representative for the Minnesota Department of Health. Biftu applied for the Capitol Pathways Program to get a better understanding of the legislative process and because of her interests in immigration, environmental, health, and education policy.

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Clayton Byrd

Internship Site: MN Alliance With Youth
Augsburg University

Clayton is a senior at Augsburg University completing a degree in Sociology. Afterwards, he intends to pursue Graduate School and focus on Education. As a student at Augsburg University he has served in many leadership roles. He has enjoyed success being a part of the football team's leadership council and team captain. Apart from athletics, Clayton has been involved in the Minneapolis Public School System and volunteering and getting field experience in urban education settings. He is also involved in creating the Byrd Family Scholarship. The scholarship is debuting this year and awards high performing students of color at Centennial High School who promote cultural diversity and social justice.

With a passion for education, equality, and social justice, Clayton hopes to pursue a career in the education department, specifically in urban high schools. Through the Capitol Pathways Program, he hopes to learn more about public policy and better understand how the government works.

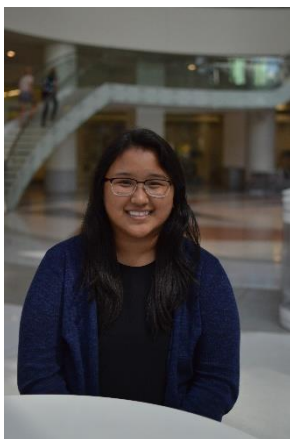


Saira Cervantes Montes

Internship site: Ed Allies
Augsburg University

Saira is in her third year at Augsburg University and is pursuing her major in Sociology with a special emphasis on race. Saira is driven by a love of her community, family, and culture. She has a background in community activism, interning at La Oportunidad and working closely with the Latino Youth Conference to help guide and empower Latinx young people to aspire to their dreams. She is a first generation college student and is passionate about

making academia accessible to everyday people, focusing especially on communities of color. She plans to go on to graduate school and eventually teach sociology at a college level.



Tenzin Dhakong

Internship site: Education Minnesota
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Tenzin is currently a junior majoring in Political Science and minoring in Comparative Race and Ethnic studies at the University of Minnesota Twin-Cities. Tenzin is a 1.5 generation immigrant and first-generation college student. She hopes to pursue a career in public policy, advocating for legislation that supports marginalized communities. As a student at the University of Minnesota Twin-Cities, she has served in numerous leadership positions. Tenzin is the President of the Tibetan American Student Association and a peer mentor for the ASPIRE Program.

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Outside of school, Tenzin has interned for a wide range of organizations from both the nonprofit and public sectors. She was a Political Leaders of Tomorrow (PLOT) for womenwinning, where she supported the organization's mission for more female representation in public office. This past summer, she worked as an Urban Scholar for the Minneapolis Public Schools, where she created curriculum that supports and advocates for LGBTQ+ students. Tenzin is also an incoming Public Policy and International Affairs (PIIA) Fellow for the summer of 2018.



Chrissy Dornon

Internship site: Minnesota Secretary of State
Gustavus Adolphus College

Chrissy is currently a senior majoring in Political Science at Gustavus Adolphus College. She hopes to pursue a career in public service. Her career interests lie in public policy and electoral politics. As a student at Gustavus Adolphus, Chrissy has served in numerous leadership roles. She served as the President of Gustavus College Democrats and as a student representative on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Her other campus activities include: Building Bridges, Gustavus Greens, Womyn's Awareness Center, Sports Information, and Campus Activities.

Chrissy has participated in numerous internships. She spent the summer of 2016 interning at the White House in the Office of Presidential Correspondence. The following summer she was a Public Policy and International Affairs Junior Summer Institute Fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Policy. She wanted to be part of Capitol Pathways because she believed strongly in its mission. She wants to work with an organization that supports increasing minority representation in government. As a member of the Capitol Pathways cohort Chrissy hopes to strengthen her leadership skills and better understand public policy.



Juliette Emmanuel

Internship site: Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
Saint Olaf College

Juliette is a senior at Saint Olaf College, majoring in Political Science and French with a concentration in Race and Ethnic Studies. She has taken on leadership positions in a variety of organizations, including her position as chair of KARIBU (the African-Caribbean Student Organization at St Olaf) and programming director for the Diversity Celebrations Committee, a branch of the Student Government Association.

Originally from the Republic of the Congo, Juliette is passionate about discovering new cultures and helping people. Since her time at the United World College Maastricht in Holland, she has traveled around the world and volunteered through various non-profit organizations such as the UNICEF Congo, LivaRehab in Denmark, Dress4Success in Maastricht or LeBaloir in Belgium.

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She is also passionate about politics and law. After she graduates from St Olaf in May 2018, she is planning travel to Europe and pursue her Masters and PhD in Criminal Justice. As a member of the 2018 Capitol Pathways Cohort, Juliette sees her position as a true opportunity to grow and possibly make a positive impact in the future.



Jennifer Eng

Internship site: Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development
Macalester College

Jennifer is a second year at Macalester College majoring in economics and minoring in statistics. She was born and raised in San Francisco, but came to Minnesota for college and to experience seasonal change. In the future, Jennifer hopes to work in the financial sector, attend graduate school, then ultimately work in the public sector.

Passionate about social equity and cultural empowerment, Jennifer is a part of various programs and organizations that focus on these matters. At Mac, she is involved in Bonner Community Scholars, a four-year civic engagement program that pertains to access to education and opportunities to serve. Through Bonner, she works off-campus at an NGO called Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), where she promotes economic development through creative placemaking in primarily low-income immigrant neighborhoods. On campus, she is a part of an Asian identity collective as well as an Asian activism organization, due to her interest in issues and disparities affecting the Asian American community. Jennifer applied to Capitol Pathways because she wants hands-on experience with the implementation of policies at the state level. Through Capitol Pathways, she hopes to gauge how to provide the resources for communities of color to lift themselves up, especially in her community back home.



Raie Gessesse

Internship site: Minnesota Department of Human Services
Hamline University

Raie is currently a sophomore at Hamline University double majoring in Public Health and Political Science with a minor in Social Justice. She plans on pursuing a graduate program in Health Policy with a focus on Health Equity to eventually pursue a career in which she can address and advocate for equitable health outcomes in all policies.

Raie is extremely passionate about community-based advocacy and leadership and has been highly active in this area. She was a sexual health community educator for African immigrant communities through Planned Parenthood where she was able to assist in teaching culturally-relevant sexual health curriculum to youth. In addition, she has been serving on the Young Women's Initiative of Minnesota for 2 years as a cabinet member dedicated to creating and ensuring equitable policies and outcomes for young women. She

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was also nominated as a co-chair and serves on the Respect and Leadership council. On campus she is also a Resident Advisor, Teaching Assistant, McVay youth voice support intern, and Event Coordinator of Hamline's African Student Association. As a part of the Capitol Pathways cohort, Raie hopes to further her professional development and gain tangible skills in public policy and the political process. She also hopes to engage with Capitol leaders as well as community-level leaders to develop stronger relationships in order to build and sustain healthy communities throughout the state of Minnesota.



D'Andre Gordon

Internship site: MN Citizens for the Arts
Hamline University

D'Andre is currently a sophomore at Hamline University double majoring in criminal justice and psychology. He was the first in his family to graduate high school and go to college. He is very passionate about restorative justice practices and improving the stance of minority communities in the United States and worldwide. He is also an immigrant from Jamaica to the United States. D'Andre currently tutors students at Robbinsdale Middle School and is

serving as a Red Cross Board Member.

He has also held many leadership positions in the past such as Congressional Youth Representative, City Council Youth Representative, Student Council President and Co-chair of Student Advisory Committee. After obtaining his undergraduate degrees, D'Andre plans on going to law school for either criminal law or human rights. D'Andre pursued the Capitol Pathways internship program because he is very passionate about public policy and hopes to influence more people to become civically engaged, especially those that identify with minority groups. He also believes that we cannot have a truly representative political system unless everyone's voices are heard and taken seriously.



Irina Herrera

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

Irina is a senior at the University of Minnesota. She is majoring in Political Science with a concentration in Law and Politics. As a member of the College of Liberal Arts Student Board, she works daily to advocate and protect the best interest of all students. Within her position she has taken a very active role, coordinating many cultural awareness, academic and diversity initiatives. With that being said, Irina is a member of a women's

empowerment group Sigma Lambda Gamma, the largest historically based latina sorority in the nation. As a proud Latina woman, Irina strives to embody their deeply rooted principles of, morals & ethics, community service, cultural awareness, academic and social interactions. Irina believes by continuously representing and promoting these principles she can help empower other women and further enhance our global community in a positive way. Irina is the current Social Interactions Chair and has taken on this role because she believes engaging in positive shared social interactions helps us not only to better understand others but, to also

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better understand ourselves. In her spare time Irina enjoys cooking, reading, traveling and fitness classes. Her passions include social justice, politics, and equality which is why she applied for the Capital Pathways Internship. She hopes that the program will help here become more familiar with state government and the legislative process. After completing her Bachelor's degree, Irina plans to work in politics for a year and continue on to attend law school.



Kitana Holland

Internship site: Minnesota Private College Council
Augsburg University

Kitana is a senior at Augsburg University and is studying Sociology with a minor in Leadership Studies and Religion. As a first generation college student and oldest child of three, Kitana lives by 'paying it forward' because without the life changing guidance and assistance from College Possible and TRIO/SSS she would not be where she is today. Kitana believes that everyone should have the chance at a post-secondary education and a helpful hand to thrive and be successful throughout their educational endeavors. This has been evident in her work as a LEAD Fellow (Leaders for Equity, Action, and Democracy) and a past Student Advisory Board member for BetterMakeRoom. Better Make Room is a campaign under Michelle Obama's Reach Higher initiative to change the national conversation on education and connect with students to celebrate college. Through these experiences, she has been able to use her creativity, relationship building, and process thinking to create impact in her community. Kitana aspires to be a resource to first generation, low-income, and underrepresented high school and college students. Kitana applied to the Capitol Pathways program to be challenged and learn how much the political decisions in our state affects her and the rest of the state.



Malcolm Lawson

Internship site: Ujamaa Place
University of St. Thomas

Malcolm is a sophomore at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is a political science major with a focus in cultural and civil rights. Malcolm is a member of both Varsity football and basketball at the University of St. Thomas, liaison to the Dean of Students office regarding Student hearing boards, a member of the Black Empowerment Student Alliance and also part of the Pre-law society. He has interned at Lyceum Partners and Design and also The Minnesota Harvest initiative. Malcolm is interested in civil rights law, diversity and inclusion services and public policy. He is excited to intern with Ujamaa Place, an organization that works to empower at-risk young black men.

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Pele Vãn Lê

Internship site: Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Pele (him/his/he) is a Viet, first-generation college student, and senior at the University of Minnesota studying health services management with a minor in Korean, leadership, public health, and psychology. Pele primarily builds with the community as the Vietnamese Student Association Minnesota's (VSAM) president and Asian Pacific American Resource Center's (APARC) student program coordinator. For leisure, Pele enjoys playing tennis, reading, and exploring new hobbies. Pele looks forward to promoting advocacy and strengthening nonprofit organizations at the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits.



Stephany Lopez

Internship site: Association of MN Counties
University of Northwestern - St. Paul

Stephany is a first-generation student. She is an Act Six Scholar at the University of Northwestern - St. Paul and is currently a sophomore looking to pursue a major in the social sciences while minoring in political science. Stephany is a student leader and is currently involved in the Fellowship of Reconciling Cultures Everywhere, which is a multicultural organization on campus that focuses on bringing awareness to the student body on the different cultures that are on campus. In her home community, she is supporting the voices that have been unheard for many years. She advocates for the needs of those who have been oppressed and silenced. Stephany

envisions her community to become a thriving network of people who will then evolve into the change that is needed.

Stephany has interned with Amplifon USA, The City of Brooklyn Park, and she will be hosted by the Association of Minnesota Counties. Through her previous experiences and internships, she has learned that she has a great passion and interest in giving a voice to the voiceless. It is because of this that she decided to apply for the Capitol Pathways internship program. She strongly believes in its vision and purpose and she is striving to become an emerging leader through the program.

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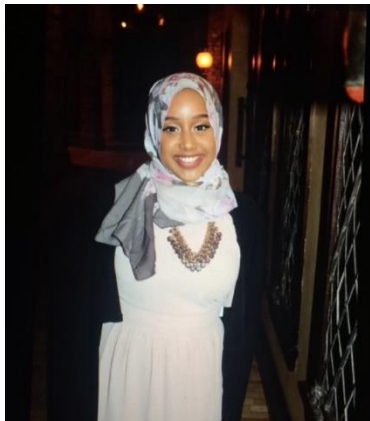


Ever Fithian-Mansfield

Internship site: The League of Minnesota Cities
Augsburg University

Ever is a senior at Augsburg University and is currently pursuing a double major in Sociology and Urban Studies. Ever strongly believes that social change starts at the micro level of community organizing with individuals and small groups. From there, they can work together to influence the larger community. He is passionate about helping marginalized groups that are underrepresented and advocating for those who are not heard. Upon graduating this spring semester he aspires to take both the LSAT and GRE

in hopes to attend Law School and focus on immigration or environmental law. He is also interested in pursuing a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning.



Nimo Mohamed

Internship site: Medica
St. Catherine University

Nimo is currently a senior at St. Catherine University and pursuing her Bachelors of Science in Public Health, Public Policy. She hopes to pursue a career in public health and policy reforms around issues of health disparities, access to healthcare, and equity in policies. As a student at St. Catherine University, she has been involved in many things such as; the Student Senate, LEAD team which is a leadership club on campus focused on helping other students improve their leadership abilities, and working with nonprofits such as Genesys Works to create better opportunities for

students like herself. She was also the youngest keynote speaker at the breakthrough ceremony for her internship with Genesys Works, where she advocated for better job opportunities for students of color. This experience ignited her participation in leadership roles and public activism.

Nimo applied to Capitol Pathways because she knew it would give her the platform she needed to increase her knowledge of the legislative process and work. She ultimately believes that as long as she continues to strive for equality and representation in policy work, the policy will work for the people and not against them. Nimo is very passionate about issues in relation to healthcare policies and is eager to expand upon her knowledge in her role as an intern.

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Inonge Mubita

Internship site: Fresh Energy
Macalester College

Inonge Mubita is a sophomore at Macalester College pursuing a major in Political Science and Environmental Studies. She is interested in community organizing and policy work focused on environmental justice. With a passion for environmental policy, Inonge hopes to pursue a career in environmental policy and international development. Inonge is an active member on campus and in the community. She is the Marketing and Communications Manager for the African student organization, Afrika. With a small Black population on campus the organization was initiated as a space for students to explore and embrace their identities. Inonge also works as a Program Assistant at the Department of Multicultural Life on campus where she is able to explore the different forms of justice and bring activism into academia. As a Program Assistant Inonge creates programs centered on students with marginalized identities. She believes that Capitol Pathways is a great opportunity for her to learn more about the policy work she intends to follow in the future and learn about the ways more people of color can be incorporated into the government.



Amal Muse

Internship site: Goff Public
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Amal is a junior at the University of Minnesota. She is studying Journalism and Political Science, and aspires to become an immigration lawyer. In her quest to help others, she is very involved in her community. Amal has many years of volunteer experience and is an active community member because she believes in helping others without seeking any compensation. She is planning on volunteering for the second year with the Students Today Leaders Forever, a student-led group that travels around the country volunteering.

Amal is one of the co-founders of the Sisterhood Boutique, a business venture that is designed to help young East African girls gain leadership and work experience. She was appointed by Governor Dayton in 2016 as part of the Young Women's Cabinet, a collaboration between the Women's Foundation of Minnesota and Governor Dayton's office. This collaboration aims to create policies that decrease gender inequality for young girls across the state. Currently, Amal works as a research assistant at the Hubbard School of Journalism where she is working on analysing the lack of transparency of non-profit organizations on Twitter. Also, Amal is the President of Students for the Horn of Africa (SHA) a student group that advocates and educates the university community about the transnational migration within and from and the human rights violations occurring in the Horn of Africa. Through her involvement with the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, Amal is a part of the Micro Grant Committee, where she helps provide grants to young girls from marginalized communities.

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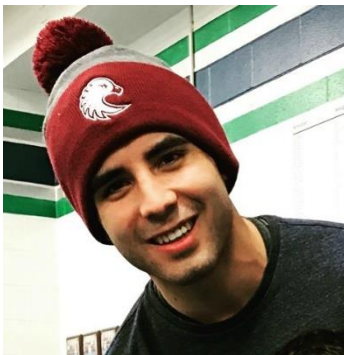


Jordana Palmer

Internship site: Xcel Energy
Macalester College

Jordana is a senior at Macalester College double majoring in Political Science and Sociology, with an emphasis on international affairs. She was born in Jamaica and is passionate about community development. After she graduates, she hopes to use her legislative and research skills in public policy and advocacy.

On campus, her academic work is primarily focused on understanding the impact of environmental and urban development on policy on marginalized communities. Jordana has been a part of a variety of research experiences on her college campus where is currently a Mellon Mays Scholar. She is working on her own research decolonizing democracy protest movements. Additionally, Jordana organizes panels around campus to engage with the community on global and domestic issues. She is partnered with Xcel Energy's Government Relations team- allowing her the opportunity to have a perspective about a career in environmental and energy policy at the legislative level. Jordana is also an artist who enjoys weaving, printmaking, and writing.



Justo Ramirez-Carrillo

Internship site: Minnesota Council of Latino Affairs
Augsburg University

Justo is currently a senior at Augsburg University majoring in Sociology. As an immigrant from Mexico, he will be the second in his family to graduate from a university. After gaining work experience as an intern in Washington D.C., Justo now wants to work with his own community in Minnesota to help improve the lives of everyday Minnesotans. He hopes to attend law school at the University of Minnesota or back in Washington D.C.

As a student at Augsburg University, Justo participated and competed with the wrestling team where he gained skills in leadership, adaptability, teamwork, time management and the ability to work under pressure. As an intern for D.C. Tutoring and Mentoring Initiative, Justo worked with a team throughout various projects to help local youth find tutors and mentors that can help them pursue higher education. Justo applied to Capitol Pathways as he saw it as a great way to gain first-hand experience in working with the legislative system and to understand it better, so he can continue to help the Latino community in any way possible. He hopes to become a leader for the Latino community to help find the necessary resources that they need and to help bridge the gap and eliminate any misunderstanding of Latinos in Minnesota.

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Tytiana Reid

Internship site: Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
Winona State University

Tytiana is currently a senior double majoring in Public Administration and Political Science at Winona State University. She hopes to pursue a career in the field of Public Policy, focusing on underserved and underrepresented communities. Her undergraduate research has been in the area of Mass Incarceration, and Prison Reform. She is currently working on research through her University on the Impacts and understanding of Hurricane Relief, after being awarded a Winona State Foundation Scholarship, she will travel to The Virgin Islands for a ten-day research project.

Over the past four years she has been active around the Winona State campus. Being a part of the Women of Color Association, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, African Students United, TRIO and TRIO Leadership, SILLC Mentor, and incited to join several other honor societies. She has done a lot of work with the Inclusion and Diversity office, focused on building inclusive campuses. Tytiana's passion for travel started once she studied in Sweden for six months and realized that many students of color are not able to study abroad. As a result, she became a peer advisor and advocated for students to study abroad.



Justin Reis-Henrie

Internship Site: Minnesota Budget Project
Macalester College

Justin is a sophomore attending Macalester College and majoring in Economics and minoring in Hispanic Studies. Justin is a member of Fossil Free Macalester, a student organization that is currently pushing for a moratorium on the forty million Macalester has invested in fossil fuel infrastructure and partnerships. Additionally, he pursues his passion for video at the Macalester Communications Office where he is a videographer. Justin applied to Capital Pathways program to learn the nuts and bolts of the political process and explore the role of Non-Profits in the political sector. Upon graduation, Justin

hopes to employ his deep sense of justice to the benefit of all.

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Jazmin Rosas-Torres

Internship site: Great Plains Institute
Augsburg University

Jazmin is currently a junior at Augsburg University majoring in political science and minoring in Spanish. She is Mexican-American and the first in her family to attend college. She is a TRIO/SSS and College Possible student, programs that help first-generation students overcome social and economic barriers. She is very passionate about helping those who are underrepresented and giving back to her community. Jazmin currently works as a Spanish tutor at her university campus. With her passion for human rights and equality, Jazmin intends to continue her education, attending Law school pursuing a career as an immigration lawyer. Capitol Pathways is Jazmin's first internship and she hopes to learn more about local public policy in order to help her community.



Carmel San Juan

Internship site: ClearWay MN
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Carmel is currently a senior designing her own major at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities with her three emphases centered on Public Health, Sociology, and the Helping Professions. She is also minoring in Leadership. Her current goal is to continue her studies by attaining a Master's of Public Health (MPH) degree focused on health equity, public policy, and/or community promotion.

As a very active student in her university since junior year of high school, Carmel has been primarily involved with the Asian-American community on campus—specifically, the Philippine Student Association (PSA) in which she served as Cultural Chair her freshman year and Vice-President her sophomore year. Her passion also lies in dance with how she was the coordinator of PSA's traditional dance team for two years and is currently choreographing for the Fil-Minnesotan Association's 40th Debutante Ball and PSA's 24th Philippine Culture Night this year. Carmel is also currently completing a fellowship for the organization Leaders of Today and Tomorrow, and is often on a constant search for more opportunities in the public health field that seeks to help marginalized communities.

Besides her career aspirations, dancing and making poetry are some of her hobbies, as well as traveling with friends. She applied as a Capitol Pathways intern in hopes of expanding her network and solidifying her career goals of pursuing public health policy when she goes to graduate school for her MPH.

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Katherine Santamaria-Mendez

Internship site: Second Harvest Heartland
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Katherine is currently a freshman with junior status at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities majoring in Chicano/Latino Studies and Sociology of Law, Criminology, and Deviance. Katherine was born in El Salvador but came to the United States when she was 2 years old. At the age of 15, she became a young mother but was able to graduate high school with an Associate of Arts Degree from Saint Paul College. She hopes to attend law school and bring justice to people that have historically been marginalized. She is passionate about immigration law and also in learning about how we can end the mass incarceration of people of color in the United States. Recently, she's been

learning more about tribal law because she strongly believes we must honor the indigenous land and the indigenous people of the land we occupy.

Katherine volunteered for over a year at Children's Hospital of Minnesota. She also participated in the Minnesota School Social Workers Association's annual day at the hill. She currently volunteers in the Spanish Immersion program at Wellstone Elementary School with helping children improve their Spanish reading and writing skills. She is very passionate about helping Latinx children feel proud of their bilingualism. She also currently serves on the MN Young Women's Initiative Cabinet. This partnership between the Women's Foundation of Minnesota and Governor's Office have allowed her to help address some of the disparities young women face in Minnesota.



Ximena Silva-Avila

Internship site: O'Rourke Strategic Consulting
Macalester College

Ximena is currently a sophomore at Macalester College where she is double majoring in Applied Mathematics and Political Science, in addition to completing a concentration in Legal Studies. Ximena hopes to pursue a career in law where she is able to combine her background in mathematics in order to influence policy to promote human rights. Ximena currently works with Macalester's Admission Office as a Multicultural Programs Coordinator. She helps plan and execute programming meant to increase student of color's access to the college.

Ximena has always had an interest in how government affects our everyday lives. She became involved in politics in 2014 on a congressional campaign, and has continued to engage in politics since then through campaigns, Mayoral youth councils, and her academics. She applied to the Capitol Pathways to expand her view of politics and how individual 'outsiders,' like herself, can effect change in politics.

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Emaan Soliman

Internship site: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
St. Catherine University

Emaan is senior at St. Catherine University, where she is majoring in Public health with a double concentration in health sciences and public policy as well as minoring in Biology. She describes herself as a compassionate, learner, and healthcare advocate. Emaan loves volunteering and giving back to the community. Currently she is involved with multiple extracurricular activities inside and outside her university including student government/senate as senior class representative, student advisor for Muslim student association, literature tutor through “America Reads” program at different community partners and hospitality team lead for Almaghrib Institute.

She is passionate about issues related to the public health such as equal access to health care, environmental issues, the public policy sector as well as clinical medicine. Her goals after graduation is serving as a volunteer for Peace Corps abroad and to attend graduate school offering the dual Masters program in Public health-public policy and Physician assistant. Emaan believes that one of her strength is consequential compassion, where compassion to helping others is linked with actions.



Matthew Wu

Internship site: Sierra Club North Star Chapter
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Matthew Wu is a sophomore studying Political Science at the University of Minnesota. He was raised in California but chose Minnesota for college study to get away from the sun for some reason. His current plan after graduation is to continue his studies in pursuit of a Law degree, but he’s also very interested in policy work and all the many careers that support it.

He serves as the Social Media Chair of the Chinese American Students Association and greatly values his culture and identity as an Asian American. Part of why he originally got into Political Science was because Asian Americans are so underrepresented in Politics, which makes Capitol Pathways a natural fit with his interests that he was excited to find. He applied to get a more hands-on experience with politics and policy work that is hard to find in a classroom. He will be interning at the Sierra Club North Star Chapter. Off the clock, he enjoys reading, working out, trying new things, and long walks on the beach.

***Entire cohort not represented. Photos and bios will be included as we receive them.**