

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2020 Cohort



Abdifatah Abdi

Internship Site: Minnesota Housing
Macalester College

Abdifatah is currently a sophomore at Macalester College, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Data Science with a concentration in Legal Studies. At Macalester, Abdifatah is involved in programs such as Bonner Scholars, a four-year civic engagement program that supports low-income, first-generation students. This program has exposed him to opportunities in community engagements. Abdifatah volunteers with the College Access program, where he shares his trajectory as a college student with high school students who are often low-income, first-generation, students of color. In addition to that, he is one of the Leaders in Service in the Civic Engagement Center at Macalester, in which he organizes the Youth and Tutoring program. In this role, he helps Macalester build relationships with community organizations by working collaboratively around the needs of youth and identifying ways Macalester students can be of assistance. In his free time, he enjoys watching and playing soccer.

As a member of the 2020 Capitol Pathways Cohort, Abdifatah sees this as an opportunity to explore different policy areas and the legislative process, so that he is equipped to make a positive impact in the future. Abdifatah is hoping to obtain a master's in public policy with a focus on social and urban policies. He wants to shape the policies and programs that affect communities that are often underrepresented in politics.



Yasir Abdullahi

Internship Site: Sierra Club North Star Chapter
Anoka Ramsey Community College

For the 2020 Capitol Pathways year, Yasir Abdullahi will be interning with the Sierra Club Northstar Chapter. He is very passionate about climate and environmental issues. As a sophomore student studying biology at Anoka Ramsey, Sierra Club is a wonderful match to see how in theory Environments should be and how in reality it is being abused. Yasir joined this internship because he was interested in policy making, especially around environmental issues. Yasir has experience with a youth lead volunteering program called "Young Brothers Ball " which is a part of Building Blocks. In that Youth lead project there are multiple times in which they volunteered picking up waste off the floor. Yasir is very interested in how policy is made to reduce pollution from society as a whole.

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Aisha Abdullahi

Internship Site: Minnesota Private College Council
Hamline University

Aisha is currently a senior at Hamline University double majoring in Exercise Science and Psychology. She hopes to pursue a career in Sports Equity and create access and opportunity for youth from marginalized communities interested in pursuing elite sports. Aisha's goal is to focus on issues related to Muslim women in sports, and increase the representation and opportunities provide to young girls in sports. As a student at Hamline, she has been involved in leadership roles with many organizations such as: the Minnesota Association of Private College Students (MAPCS), Student Advisory Council for the Office of Higher Education, and the Ethiopian-Eritrean Student Union (EESU). She is passionate about affordable higher

education and has testified in front of both the House and Senate last year as a student voice for her peers. As a part of the Capitol pathways cohort, Aisha hopes to gain more knowledge about the political process and better understand public policy. She hopes to develop her leadership skills through the program to better serve her community.



Zakariya Abdullahi

Internship Site: Education Minnesota
Augsburg University

Zakariya is a third-year student double majoring in Political Science (with a concentration in Public Policy) and International Relations. He is passionate about education reform, human security and development. He hopes to get his Masters in Public Policy focusing on Education Policy to eventually pursue a career working on education reform and combating systemic racism, islamophobia, xenophobia and etc. within the school system.

Zakariya is extremely passionate about local politics but he also wants to take his experiences here in Minnesota and America in general and use it back in his motherland, Somalia, where he wants to work on education development. This semester with Capitol Pathways and Education MN he hopes to learn more about education on the state level. How the education system in Minnesota works and ways that we can truly make sure education is for all and not just some.

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In'am Al-Hamouri

Internship Site: Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Augsburg University

In'am Al-Hammouri, a senior at Augsburg University, is majoring in psychology, with an aspiration to attend law school. In'am has been serving on the Young Women's Initiative of Minnesota for two years as a cabinet member. In'am is committed to creating equitable policies and outcomes for women throughout the state of Minnesota. Additionally, she is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. In'am's passion lies in Women's rights, giving women and girls a voice. She is also passionate about Middle East conflicts. In'am served in various positions, including volunteer work at Unity Hospital, providing aid to abused women. In'am assisted in refugee camps in Jordan, lobbied, advocated in Washington D.C, and worked with

elected officials on campaigning prior to elections.

In'am was an intern at Barnes & Thornburg LLP. Then, she transitioned with her mentor to Hutton Kluz Evans LLP, where she is currently expanding her knowledge and experience in the area of law. During her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, and trying new foods.



Genesis Carrazco

Internship Site: Ramsey County
Hamline University

Genesis is a senior at Hamline University, majoring in Psychology and minoring in Biology. She is set to graduate in May of 2020. In addition to her university studies, Genesis is also completing a Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) course for certification to teach English abroad. Genesis is remarkably involved in her community. She volunteers at both a children's hospital and a local women's shelter. She has been able to connect with highly diverse individuals/organizations and create meaningful relationships while offering culturally and linguistically competent services. Through these experiences, Genesis has become very passionate about both health equity and health disparities and advocating the

needs of marginalized groups.

Genesis admires the work of non-profit organizations. She firmly believes that non-profit organizations play a significant role in bettering society. She has completed two internships at Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES), a non-profit organization for new immigrants and low-income families. Working in a culturally relevant organization that shares the goal of wanting different racial/ethnic groups to prosper inspired Genesis to work with underserved communities. Genesis believes minority representation within our government is of utmost importance. Therefore, she hopes to work towards equality and representation in our government while interning with Capitol Pathways. She hopes that when represented, professionals will take into consideration the experiences, values, beliefs, and behaviors of different groups when creating policies.

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Ethan Culver

Internship Site: Fresh Energy
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Ethan is a second-year student at the University of Minnesota studying Environmental Policy and Sociology with an emphasis in Policy Analysis. At the University of Minnesota, Ethan is active in honors and regular admissions processes, and serves on the Honors Student Association Board as the Diversity Chair. He is passionate about supporting other underrepresented students during their experiences in higher education, promoting sustainable and equitable energy and climate policy, and pursuing happiness.

He has been placed with Fresh Energy; a St. Paul based Energy Policy NGO that lobbies and promotes decarbonizing Minnesota's Energy Grid, pushing beneficial electrification, and promoting and ensuring equitable access to clean, green electricity. He is excited to see the merger of his two academic interests—environmental policy and equitable social development—during his time interning with the organization.



Juan Diaz

Internship Site: Minnesota Department of Education
Macalester College

Juan is a sophomore at Macalester College majoring in Political Science with a concentration in Urban Studies and a minor in Spanish. He is a first-generation college student from Little Rock, Arkansas, raised by two immigrant parents from Mexico. In the future, he hopes to pursue a career in diversity and inclusion with the goal of opening new doors to communities of color to explore and thrive.

At Macalester College, Juan is a student leader and mentor. He is a Bonner Community Scholar which is a four-year civic engagement committed focused on community building and social justice. He is also one of the leaders for the Men of Color Collective (MOCC), he leads conversations revolved around gender dynamics and healthy masculinity in a redemptive and healing manner. Off-campus, Juan works at the Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx teams as one of their Group Events Assistants assisting with the implementation of pre-game, halftime, and postgame experiences. Juan is passionate about youth engagement and education, he currently works at Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Service (CLUES) as the Civic Engagement Coordinator. Through lesson planning and discussion, he works towards providing underprivileged students the knowledge and resources to become civically engaged within their communities. As a member of the Capitol Pathways Program, Juan hopes to increase his understanding of the policymaking process to help uplift youth of color towards a better sense of belonging and success.

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Dieu Do

Internship Site: Minnesota House of Representatives – Rep. Steve Elkins’ Office
Hamline University

Dieu is currently a junior at Hamline University studying Political Science, concentration in Political Change and Advocacy, and Criminology/Criminal Justice. She plans on pursuing a graduate program in Advocacy and Political Leadership before running for political office by 2026.

Dieu is fiercely passionate about civic engagement and creating pathways for historically underrepresented communities into local, state, and federal government systems. Dieu applied to be a member of the Capitol Pathways Program because it aligns perfectly with her vision of an accessible and transparent government system that is representative of the communities it is serving. Dieu has been active in the Twin Cities since coming to college. She was a congressional intern for U.S. Senator Tina Smith where she was able to research and present on the lack of healthcare provider in northern Minnesota to a staff of outreach directors and constituent services representatives. In addition, she has served as the Violence Prevention Intern for Minneapolis Park Police and the Field Organizer for Rebecca Noecker for St. Paul City Council campaign. Dieu currently serves on the Associate Board of Girls on the Run Twin Cities, Board of Directors for Women for Political Change, and Board of Directors for the Hamline-Midway Coalition.

On campus she is also the Student Body Vice President, a Student Ambassador, a Student Dispatcher, and as a Conduct Board Member. As a part of the Capitol Pathways cohort, Dieu hopes to further her knowledge on the political process of the state government system and is excited to activate a coalition of engaged citizens through her work.



Keegan Greaney

Internship Site: O’Rourke Strategic Consulting
Macalester College

Keegan is a junior at Macalester College majoring in Political Science with a minor in Data Science. He is passionate in the areas of business, law and human rights and seeks to use his problem solving capabilities to empower historically marginalized groups. In the future, Keegan hopes to attend law school and ultimately work in public interest law. Keegan is involved on campus in the Black Liberation Affairs Committee (BLAC) and is a class representative on the Macalester College Student Government where he has developed his leadership and communication skills. He is an advocate for seeking change through educational opportunities and envisions creating a society where access to a college education is the norm for everyone. He takes pride in being involved in the community and is a mentor apart of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Through his Capitol Pathways Experience, Keegan hopes to better understand public policy and learn more about the legislative process.

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Estefani Guiracocha

Internship Site: Catholic Charities
Augsburg University

Estefani is a second year student at Augsburg University. She is majoring in Public Policy and Accounting. Estefani is a first generation college student and hopes to pursue a career in Public Policy, advocating for marginalized and underrepresented communities. She is a TRIO/SSS student, a program that helps first generation students and low-income students overcome class, social and cultural barriers in order to complete their college education. Estefani will be interning at Catholic Charities where she will serve those that are in most need and advocate for justice in the community.

As a student at Augsburg University, Estefani has served in many leadership roles. She served as a representative in the Augsburg Day Student Government as a Class Senator. Other campus activities include being a Resident Advisor where she advises 34 first-year students and serves as a role model. Estefani also volunteers at Banyan Community which is a program designed to develop youth, strengthen families and create communities. Her passion for social justice drove her to apply to Capitol Pathways and saw this as an opportunity to learn more about the legislative process and the power that communities can have. She aspires to continue being a leader in the Latinx Community and continue making a pathway for those that come after. Through her experiences, she aspires to grow and lead a fortune 500 company and eventually become an entrepreneur. She hopes to open new opportunities for women and first generation students.



Gerardo Orozco Guzman

Internship site: MENTOR Minnesota
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Gerardo was born in Mexico, raised in Wisconsin and hopes to make a good difference in Minnesota. He is a senior at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities and majors in Political Science. As an immigrant, he felt inevitably drawn to politics and law and is passionate about education policy and immigrant rights. He hopes to pursue this area of study further in law school in the future.

He has previously interned with the Minnesota Senate under Senator Patricia Torres Ray's office. Through the Capitol Pathways Program, Gerardo hopes to consolidate his knowledge of state politics and policy and work toward ensuring everyone's voices are heard by the legislature – including his own. Gerardo's passions include hiking and traveling the US while learning the history of each place. He also enjoys reading biographies of historically significant individuals. After he graduates in the spring, he plans to travel and read more as he works to find a job and give back to the state of Minnesota.

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Ivonne Hernandez

Internship Site: Ewald Consulting
Augsburg University

Ivonne is a Junior at Augsburg University majoring in Political Science and International Relations. Prior to attending Augsburg, Ivonne received her Associates of Arts Degree at Minneapolis College where she served as a Secretary for the student organization, Raíces Unidas, and as a Director of Diversity for the Student Senate. Currently, Ivonne holds a position as a Youth Program Specialist with the nonprofit organization, Pillsbury United Communities. Ivonne loves her job because she can see the great things that youth are capable of when they are given the opportunity. Ivonne and her team focus on several opportunities to better

serve middle school and high school aged youth, some which include internships, civic engagement, goal setting, workshop presentations, and entrepreneurship learning.

As a student of color and a first generation college student, Ivonne recognizes that she has limited resources and networks to provide her with the tools that she might need to succeed after college. This is why Ivonne applied for the Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship program. Ivonne is very excited and proud to be a part of this cohort. Ivonne has been placed with Ewald Consulting for the Spring 2020 legislative session. During her time at Ewald she will work closely with the Government and Media Relations team by monitoring committee hearings, attending floor sessions, and working on weekly articles and social media platforms. Ivonne is very excited and looking forward to strengthening her knowledge around public policy, and creating long lasting relationships.

Makayla Higgs

Internship Site: EdAllies
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities



Makayla is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities in Minneapolis, MN. She is majoring in Sociology with a focus in policy analysis and minoring in African American Studies. Makayla is involved in the U's Student Conduct Board and Black Campus Ministries where she can truly be herself around supportive peers. In Makayla's free time she likes to work with children and serve as a role model for children at her church.

Makayla applied to the Capitol Pathways program to understand the privileges of the political system to share with others who may not be as involved in the political domain. She will be interning with the non-profit organization, EdAllies, where she will be advocating for the strong push for education equity. Makayla plans to obtain a degree not only for herself, but also for the wellbeing of future generations in the Black community.

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Kevin Huynh

Internship Site: Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Kevin is a fourth-year Vietnamese-American student at the University of Minnesota majoring in Sociology and minoring in Leadership and Public Health. Outside of Capitol Pathways, he currently works on campus at the Asian Pacific American Resource Center as a Student Coordinator and at the President's Emerging Scholars Program as a Peer Mentor.

He is also engaged in a variety of campus organizations such as the Vietnamese Student Association, the Midwest Asian-American Student Union, and the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence. Other recent experiences that he found valuable were having interned at the City of Minneapolis as an Urban Scholar and being a teaching assistant for the University of Minnesota Leadership Minor. For leisure, Kevin enjoys playing board games, trying new foods, and exploring new hobbies. As a member of the 2020 Cohort, Kevin is looking forward to gaining a better understanding of the legislative process and public policy as well as create meaningful relationships with community leaders. He will take this opportunity to learn about the political system to create ways towards more equitable representation.



Nidhi Jariwala

Internship Site: Rethos
Hamline University

Nidhi Jariwala is a second-year student at Hamline University. She is pursuing a double major in Economics and Global Studies with a minor in Spanish. She will be interning with Rethos through the Capitol Pathways Program. She is very passionate about promoting economic development and environmental justice internationally. At Hamline University, Nidhi works as an assistant for the global studies department and as a head delegate for the Hamline Model United Nations team. She hopes to one day teach at the college-level and promote global justice."

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Estefania Jauregui

Internship Site: SEIU Local 284
Hamline University

Estefania is currently a sophomore at Hamline University double majoring in History and Religion. As a first-generation college student, Estefania plans on receiving her Masters and Ph.D. in History to eventually pursue a career as a professor. Estefania believes history ties in with social justice and understanding the history behind what you are advocating for will help you reach more people and allow you to contribute to society.

Capitol Pathways is Estefania's first internship and she hopes to further develop, strengthen her skills of communication, research, leadership and solidify her knowledge on the legislative process.



Sumeya Jeilani

Internship Site: Minnesota Department of Transportation
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Sumeya is a first-generation college student and a sophomore at the University of Minnesota- Twin Cities majoring in Technical Writing and Communication with a minor in Computer Science (to sustain her love of problem solving). After graduation, she hopes to gain a few years of work experience in the public sector before attending law school and pursuing a career in the legal field.

Passionate about equity in education, healthcare, and access to resources, Sumeya is eager to learn how public policy can create or dismantle equitable systems. At her host agency, she hopes to learn what issues around transportation exist in Minnesota, and how those issues affect the diverse needs of different communities within the state. Her current job as a Community Advisor gives her the opportunity to strengthen her skills in mediation, decision-making, and communication; most importantly, it gives her the opportunity to work with a wide range of individuals and promote diversity and inclusion. She is also involved with She's the First, and the Pre-Law Society.

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Metadal Lee

Internship Site: Hennepin Healthcare System
Hamline University

Metadel is a second year student at Hamline University. She is majoring in Public Health with a minor in Psychology. As a new student at Hamline, Metadel is involved in Feed Your Brain and serves as an assistant to both the Public Health Sciences Department and the Center for Justice and Law. After she graduates from Hamline, she intends to obtain a Master of Public Policy and pursue a career in public policy. She is passionate about elevating historically marginalized voices in the field of public policy. She is excited to be a Capitol Pathways intern because of its mission to diversify the voices in public policy in Minnesota. She is especially interested in better understanding the legislative process and gaining exposure to the public policy world.



Jae-Lah Lymon

Internship Site: Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Jae-Lah Lymon is a second year student at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. She is double majoring in Sociology and Business Marketing Education. Being mixed race herself she has always been interested in why race exists and what can be done to end the cycle of oppression that people of color (POC) experience. With her strong passion for dismantling the institutions that perpetuate racism, she plans to combat them through changing how POC are perceived in media. She had previously interned as a page at the House of Representatives during her sophomore year of high school where she was exposed to how the legislature is run. She has volunteered with organizations such as YouthLink and CES Food Shelf.

She applied to Capitol Pathways because she believes in the importance of diversifying the capitol due to its enormous amount of benefits. We cannot have people making decisions for people who they will never be able to share experiences with. She believes that a true democracy cannot exist without adequate representation so that all voices are heard.

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Mariangel Marino

Internship Site: Lutheran Social Services
St. Cloud State University

Mariangel is currently a senior in Communication Studies with an emphasis in Leadership and Organization and Intercultural Relations at St. Cloud State University. Her goals include helping immigrants get acquainted and find the resources they need to thrive, whether they be legal, educational, health, or housing. She understands as a nontraditional Latina immigrant student, the struggle of trying to survive the many challenges immigrants face, not just the educational system, but in everyday life.

As a student at St Cloud State University, Mariangel is a member of the Global Leadership Academy, a group of students from all over the world, working towards a common purpose, to conduct themselves as global citizens with the cultural competency to be inclusive and effective in this age of globalization. Mariangel chose to pursue the Capitol Pathways Internship Program because she is interested in learning more about how politics play a role in big decisions that affect our communities and people of color. She was born in Venezuela and saw how poor management and negotiations led to the current struggles of her nation and she wants to hopefully go back someday and try to help rebuild her beloved home. In her free time, Mariangel enjoys cooking traditional meals for her friends, supporting local music, and hanging out with her loving cat, Luna.



Stefan Milton

Internship Site: Great Plains Institute
Minnesota State University – Mankato

Stefan is currently a sophomore majoring in Political Science while minoring in Environmental Studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato. He hopes to attain a career in Politics as a U.S. Congressman. He is also an Environmentalist and wishes to accelerate his knowledge as a dedicated Environmental Scientist. Stefan's ultimate goal is to focus on issues related to systematic racism and challenging task of balancing taking care of the people, and even more imperative, the environment.

As a college student, Stefan has already engaged in a history of administrative, leadership, and customer service related positions with an increased level of responsibility and accountability. These experiences accelerated his experience in relationship-building, communication, adaptability, organization, executing projects, and establishing leadership. He was an intern at the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, and Department of Human Services, holding both Administrative Assistant positions there. The most recent internship allowed him to gain pivotal knowledge as he was able to have time with Mayor Melvin Carter. He is currently part of an annual volunteer service leading youth in extracurricular activities at different recreation centers over the summer such as Arlington Recreation Center, Wilder Recreation Center, and Rice Street Recreation Center.

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At MNSU Stefan is also a part of the school's College of Democrats club. He has participated in several certified courses, trainings, and development opportunities made available through various organizations and agencies. He participated as a Student Officer, Delegated to the Human Counsel of Model United Nations and will be participating again next year. Stefan applied to the Capitol Pathways program to accelerate and increase his knowledge in Public Policy and Environmental Policy, learn more from those already connected to legislature, and bring his set of prolific ideas to his current environmental agency at Great Plains Institute.



Sayidali Moalim

Internship Site: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Sayidali is a first generation college student at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. He is a senior and majoring in Global Studies with a concentration in Political Economics. In the past, he has interned for Hennepin County as an IT Enterprise Workforce Planning and Strategy Intern and the Institute For Local Self-Reliance broadband (ILSR) as an Community Broadband Networks Research Intern as well as worked closely with the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC). After graduation, Sayidali hopes to land a full time job doing something that's engaging and helps enrich the community.



Maryam Mohamad

Internship Site: Minnesota Budget Project
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Maryam Mohamad will be working with the Minnesota Budget Project during her internship with the Capitol Pathways Program. She is a junior at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities studying Political Science and minoring in Philosophy. Maryam is also a program assistant at the University of Minnesota's School of Social Work, where she works closely with the Director of the program to manage communication projects, organize events, and find innovative ways to connect with students and professors here in Minnesota, around the country, and the world. Her interests include social justice, researching income inequality, and watching basketball. She applied for the Capitol Pathways internship program due to her interest in government and politics, and felt that as a Muslim woman of color she could contribute to the legislative process with a fresh perspective that is little represented in government as of now.

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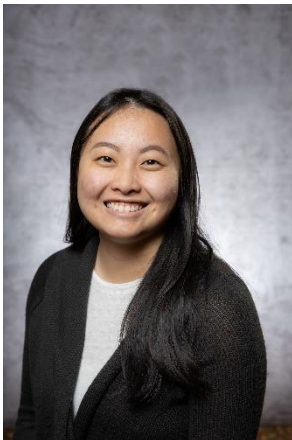


Ammar Muhammad

Internship Site: Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
Macalester College

Ammar is currently a sophomore at Macalester College majoring in Mathematics and Arabic. Aside from his studies, Ammar has been heavily involved with the Macalester Muslim Student Association (MSA). His work includes organizing and facilitating weekly Friday prayers, weekly text studies and big events on campus such as a campus-wide Iftar during Ramadan or an Eid Dinner. Ammar also loves soccer - he plays intramural soccer at Macalester and he loves to watch the Premier League.

Ammar doesn't have a linear career path or a current vision of the future as of now. He is very passionate about his studies and would like to participate in a research program for mathematics in the near future. He also would love to participate in a study away program to further improve his speaking and listening skills in an Arabic dialect. However, Ammar is also a social leader and a community organizer - his work with the Macalester MSA champions these roles. He hopes that these curricular and extracurricular roles will help him in his internship working with the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits in fighting for racial equity and overall advocacy.



Kashia Moua

Internship Site: NAMI Minnesota
St. Catherine University

Kashia is a senior at St. Catherine University intending to graduate in Spring 2020. She is majoring in Public Health with a concentration in Public Policy and a minor in Accounting. She will be interning with NAMI Minnesota through the Capitol Pathways Program. In the past, she has volunteered at Women's Advocates, a battered women's shelter, and Shalom Home Care, a skilled nursing facility. Kashia is passionate about mental health, especially mental health services within the Hmong community. After graduation, she hopes to achieve a career in public policy and go back to school to get her Masters in Public Health.

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Ahlam Mussa

Internship Site: Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

Minneapolis Community & Technical College; Augsburg University

Ahlam is currently a sophomore at Minneapolis Community & Technical College and will be graduating at Augsburg University with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, Pre-Law Concentration and a Communication Studies minor. She is exclusively a member of the Phi Kappa Theta Sorority and has been a part of different minority-based advocacy groups and organizations. She has centered a lot of her volunteer work in her own community of Cedar-Riverside, being the voice to both the youth and elders in this East African based community. As a first-generation college student of two immigrant parents, she has decided to pursue a

career in civil and immigration rights. She has joined the Capitol Pathways program to broaden her aspects on the kind of work she wants to do post-grad, whether it be policy work or otherwise. She plans to attend law school straight out from undergrad and utilize her J.D. to make a change on behalf of minority backgrounds and immigrants. Currently, Ahlam is interning with Fredrikson and Byron and representing clients to campaign for certain bills as she learns the policy making process.



Dat Nguyen

Internship Site: Minnesota Environmental Partnership
Macalester College

Dat is a sophomore at Macalester College majoring in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in Community and Global Health. He is from Wichita, Kansas but attends college in Minnesota eager for new experiences. Dat is interested in community organizing, environmental justice, and health equity issues.

Dat hopes to learn more about community-based organizing and advocacy for social equity. On campus, he is a Bonner Community Scholar, a four-year civic engagement program that focuses on access to education and opportunities to serve for low-income/first-generation students. He is also an Opportunities Abound mentor, working on college access work with low-income and/or students of color. Through Bonner, he works as health advocate intern at Minnesota Community Care, a non-profit that provides low-cost or free health services to low-income communities. Dat is very excited to join Capitol Pathways in order to become more knowledgeable of the state legislative process and engage with community organizations in environmental and equity issues.

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Stephanie Oliva

Internship Site: Minnesota Housing Partnership
University of Northwestern – St. Paul

Stephanie is currently a sophomore at the University of Northwestern- Saint Paul. She is a first-generation college student and an Act Six Scholar. She is double-majoring in Intercultural Studies and Youth and Adult Emerging Studies and has a concentration in Nonprofit Leadership and Social Justice. In the future, Stephanie hopes to start her own non-profit to help immigrant parents who have sacrificed so much an opportunity to pursue their dreams and get an education. She will be interning at the Minnesota Housing Partnership.

Currently, Stephanie is involved with the Latinx club on campus which brings appreciation to the culture. She is passionate about seeing more students of color attend college. She is helping to plan events to recruit more students in the Latino community to help better inform and give tools about college. She is also very passionate about the Latino community, as a proud Latina herself she hopes to help other Latinos break stereotypes and bias'. Stephanie hopes to go back to her own community in South. Saint Paul, and give back what she learns and advocate for those who are underrepresented. She wants to be able to have the tools to equip herself to be able to give to others, which is one of the reasons she applied as an intern at Capital Pathways. Capital Pathways is Stephanie's first internship and she is very excited to learn more about public policy and gain exposure and hands-on experience.



Natasha Rice

Internship Site: The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Natasha is a senior at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. She is majoring in Sociology of Law, Criminology, and Deviance with a concentration in Policy Analysis and a minor in African and African American Studies. She has interned as an Urban Scholar at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board in Community Outreach, where she worked closely with the department on the organization's racial equity initiatives and assisted in projects related to underrepresented communities having access to park programs and services. Her passions include equity & equality, social justice, and accessibility to economic opportunities. Those passions led her to pursue the Capitol Pathways internship program so she can become more familiar with public policy and help those who are being underrepresented.

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Abdulkadir Sharif

Internship Site: Lockridge Grindal Nauen P.L.L.P
Augsburg University

Abdulkadir Sharif is a graduating senior at Augsburg University, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Public Policy. At Augsburg, Abdulkadir has been involved with the pan-Afrikan student union, student government and residence life. He is also a Bonner Leader Scholar where he has interned with the Minneapolis Public Schools, Trinity Lutheran Congregation, Pan-Afrikan Center and the Environmental Stewardship Committee. Additionally, Abdulkadir was awarded a David L. Boren Scholarship to study in Tanzania, is a recipient of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to South Africa and Namibia and was most recently a Public Policy and International Affairs fellow at Princeton University.

Abdulkadir hopes to one day pursue a career in foreign policy, focusing on economic development, conflict resolution and security in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Abdulkadir applied to the Capitol Pathways program to better understand the legislative process, Minnesota politics and how to effectively advocate for marginalized communities. Abdulkadir will be interning with Lockridge Grindal Nauen P.L.L.P this legislative session.



Tyler Steels

Internship Site: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Tyler Steels is a third year student at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities majoring in Political Science and minoring in Leadership and Urban Studies. Through the Capitol Pathways program, she is currently an intern at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Tyler is active in many groups including the Black Student Union and Crochet club. She had previous work experience with her Congressman Bobby Rush of Chicago, Illinois and she has worked as a Student Manager at a convenient store on campus and as a Community/Resident advisor for the University. Tyler is very excited about the legislative session and hopes to learn and connect with others.

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Jessica Trowell

Internship Site: Bethel University
Minnesota Department of Human Rights

Jessica Trowell is a senior majoring in International Relations and minoring in Journalism at Bethel University. She hopes to pursue a career in public policy and law in order to foster her passion for equity and advance policy reforms around issues like human rights, immigration, and progressive democracy. Her goal is to attend graduate school and obtain a joint M.P.P/J.D. degree. As a student at Bethel, Jessica has served in numerous leadership roles. Jessica has been a mentor for low income and first-generation students of color through the Peer Empowerment Program. She has served as a director for the executive board of GlobeMed, a nonprofit dedicated to global health and social justice and as a news reporter for

Model UN. Additionally, she has been an active member of the Black Student Union.

Outside of school, Jessica has had some experience interning with nonprofits, is an alumna of the ASCEND program (part of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority), and engages in career-oriented conferences like the Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Public Service Weekend and the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) Christian Student Leadership Conference held in Washington, D.C. During the Fall of 2019, Jessica studied abroad in France while volunteering with Serve the City Paris, where she served immigrants, refugees, and underprivileged adults. She is passionate about increasing minority representation within the government sector and seeks to deepen her understanding of policymaking through the Capitol Pathways Program.



Cheemin Thao

Internship Site: Target Corporation
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Cheemin is a second year student at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities pursuing his undergraduate in business and marketing education. He has future aspirations to get his MBA and work in the corporate world specifically with finance. As a student, he is enrolled in Army ROTC, disciplines himself in karate and will be the treasurer of the Traditional Karate-do Academy club at the university. In the past, Cheemin has interned at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Generation Next, where he provided key problem-solving input on database management, analyzed yearly educational statistics while offering solutions, creating excel spreadsheets/graphs for database entry and process reviews for reports and more. Outside of school and

internships, Cheemin is a board member and youth treasurer at his church where he enjoys keeping track of financial accounts, opening Sunday services, as well as fundraising and volunteering in various locations such as at Mall of America, collaborations with other churches and around his local community in St. Paul.

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2020 Cohort

Cheemin applied for Minnesota Capitol Pathways because he is always highly motivated to seek and experience meaningful opportunities and emphasize that no matter what your background or race is, anybody can be successful through persistent work.



Yeng Vang

Internship Site: Minnesota Department of Administration
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Yeng is currently a second year student at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities majoring in both Applied Economics and Global Studies for a dual degree. He took a gap year between high school and college due to military training in the Army National Guard but returned to school immediately after. With an emphasis in economic development and public policy, Yeng has the long term goal of changing not just his community but communities throughout the world. He applied for the Capitol Pathways program to see how key players in the legislative process can make a direct positive change to their communities and to potentially pursue a career tied to politics. Yeng was placed with the Minnesota Department of

Administration with hopes of learning more about lawmaking and improving his skills to achieve his goal.

He has several internship experiences at other state agencies through the Right Track internship program in Saint Paul and he will be interning as a grant writing intern with UpTurnships this upcoming summer. He has been both a mentor and co-lead for events hosted by the Hmong Minnesota Student Association at the University of Minnesota. After completion of his bachelor's, Yeng intends to apply for the Humphrey School of Public Affairs to pursue his master's degree. Through Capitol Pathways, Yeng hopes to broaden his opportunities in consideration of his future career, education, and how he wants to make a difference.



Jasmin Yangwaue

Internship Site: Greater Twin Cities United Way
St. Catherine University

Jasmin is a Junior at St. Catherine University majoring in Political Science. She is passionate about advocating for gender equality, social justice, and equal access to educational opportunities. She hopes to pursue law school with a joint degree in public policy.

As a student at St. Catherine University, she is involved in many opportunities such as; the Organizational Affairs Co-chair on the Student Senate, advocates for students needs on the university's integration committee, the Co-President of the Asian Women Association, transfer orientation leader, and a part of LEAD Team a student-led organization that promotes and develops lifelong leadership skills through workshops and group development. Jasmin applied to Capitol Pathways in hopes of gaining more knowledge on how to implement positive changes within the legislative process.

Minnesota Capitol Pathways Internship Program 2020 Cohort



Lay Lay Zan

Internship Site: City of Minneapolis
Augsburg University

Lay Lay is a Karen, third-year student, and Act Six scholar at Augsburg University majoring in International Relations with a concentration in pre-law and minoring in French. Lay Lay is a 1.5 generation immigrant and a first-generation college student, and she aspires to become an immigration lawyer for the Karen community in Minnesota. As a student at Augsburg University, Lay Lay has served in leadership roles. She was the Relations and Marketing officer for the Augsburg Asian Student Association (AASA), and a food coordinator for Campus Kitchen and Campus Cupboard. Her interests and passion for social justice and civic engagement led her to be a part of the LEAD Fellows (Leaders for Equity, Action, and Democracy) program that is a part of the national network of Bonner Programs, that has allowed her to serve and engage with her campus community.

In her home community, Lay Lay is passionate about advocacy and development for the Karen community. She is a board member of the Karen Football Association, a non-profit organization that is the official governing body of the Karen Women's and Men's National Soccer Teams, with the purpose to promote gender equity. This experience has only increased her passion to serve underrepresented communities, and this is why she applied to the Capitol Pathways program. It is imperative for students of color to be involved at the capitol, because government should be representative of our communities.