

## MIW Fall 2018 Cohort Internships and Bios



**Madeline Brunt**  
**Office of Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI 7th District)**

Madeline Brunt is a junior at the University of Michigan focusing in Political Science and History. She wishes to pursue a career in law. She is a committed student who volunteers her time at local organizations as well as programs that specializes in child development. As a college student she has completed an internship at the Washtenaw County Public Defender's office. While she has had experience in volunteering in child development, she has had a place in her heart for organizations that improve the environment and health of working class Americans.

Her career goals align with herself interests. She is an avid health enthusiast. She is dedicated to her lifelong goal of bodybuilding. As well as bodybuilding, she enjoys hiking, fishing, and camping. Her goal is to hike Mt. Kilimanjaro by the time she is twenty-five. She grew up in a world full of music. Ranging from classical to hard rock, she loves it all. With great enthusiasm, she will tell you about all her planned adventures. Her experiences in life crafted her into a determined individual. Traveling across the world and discovering new opportunities sets her above all others.



**Alex Canady**  
**Department of Education Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs**

Alexander Canady is a senior at the University of Michigan where he is studying Mechanical Engineering. His interest in renewable energy implementation was sparked during his time at the University, where he was able to learn about the detriment of fossil fuels and global warming. His interest is supported by his work with the Lansing Board of Water and Light, a municipally owned power supply company, where he conducted research on governmental regulation of

renewable energy systems at commercial and residential levels. He hopes to pursue a career in policy for a government agency. In addition to his interest in renewable energy, Alex loves playing the piano and playing video games.



**Madeline Carter**  
**Forbes-Tate**

Madeline Carter is a senior at the University of Michigan's Ford School of Public Policy, concentrating in K-12 education policy and its relationship with economic inequality. Her interest in education policy began while she was a summer camp counselor for underprivileged youth in southwestern Michigan. She came to understand how a lack of opportunities and access to technology, extracurriculars, and a stable family structure results in inequitable outcomes post-grade school. In hopes of gaining the professional experience necessary to combat such inequities, Madeline interned for a California State Assemblymember and Congresswoman during the summer of 2017, where she worked primarily on education and budgetary initiatives. After graduating from U-M, Madeline aspires to work for a political consulting firm, eventually go on to study law/public policy at Stanford University, and one day become a US Senator. In her free time, Madeline enjoys distance running and playing with her cat, Blue.



**Jackie Clemence**  
**AEI Public Opinion**

Jackie Clemence is a senior at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor where she is majoring in Political Science with a focus in American Politics and Government with minors in Community Action and Social Change and History. Her

interest in law began when she was a young child and her father introduced her to the movie, *The Verdict*. Since then, Jackie has pursued the legal field through non-profit organizations and internships. In 2015, she became a volunteer for the Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center where she conducts workshops for organizations at the University of Michigan and is an activist for sexual assault prevention. This led Jackie to intern with the Michigan Department of Attorney General in the Civil Rights division, where she is worked with the Women's Commission on state-wide sexual assault resources for college campuses. Jackie wishes to pursue a law degree following her graduation in May of 2019. When she is not volunteering, she enjoys creating new recipes in the kitchen and running with her dog, Enzo.



**Amanda Delekta**  
**Heritage Foundation**

Amanda Delekta is a senior at the University of Michigan where she is majoring in Political Science. She first became interested in politics upon taking a government course in high school, which only intensified after interning for Senator Jim Stamas. She is specifically interested in the intersection of law and society. Amanda explored this interest while interning for the Washtenaw County Public Defender. In this role she gained a further understanding of the impact of the law on individuals and realized she wanted to become a lawyer. Amanda aspires to attend law school upon graduation. She is interested in pursuing a career in criminal prosecution. When Amanda is not studying for the LSAT, she enjoys playing with her bulldog, and reading non-fiction novels.



**Kyra Hudson**  
**Congressional Black Caucus Foundation**

Kyra Hudson is a junior at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor where she is majoring in Public Policy with a concentration in Equity and Justice in Education Policy. Growing up, Kyra recognized early on the social, political, economic, and emotional constraints that created barriers in her pursuit of higher education. Determined to eradicate those barriers for herself and other African Americans, Kyra began her college journey committed to being an agent for change in her community and the world by addressing the issue of educational inequity for marginalized groups through public policy. Kyra's interest in education policy and justice led her to an internship her freshman year with an up and coming non-profit in Detroit called Brilliant Detroit, where she prepared issues briefs, coordinated focus groups, and planned events with community members. This experience deepened Kyra's passion for empowering community voices. She is now committed to including community ideas and perspectives as an integral part of political and social change. On campus, Kyra is deeply involved in diversity, equity, and inclusion work. She has been trained as a dialogue facilitator for topics related to social identities and social issues, and also worked under the Dean of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts as the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Culture Intern. In her free time, Kyra enjoys jogging, reading books about social change, and hanging out with her family.



**Brad McPherson**  
**Office of Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)**

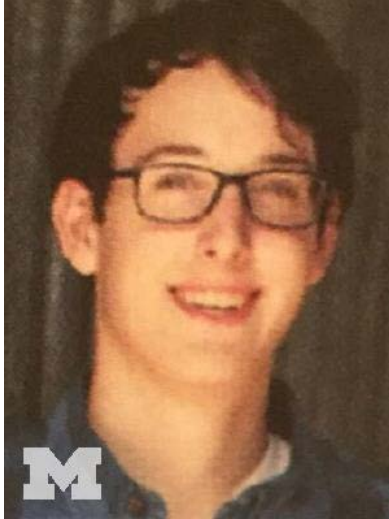
Brad McPherson is a junior at the University of Michigan where he is double-majoring in Economics and Political Science. His interests in income inequality and global development stem from his personal and professional experiences. Raised by an immigrant mother and a veteran father in homes across America, Brad has considered the effects of economic trends from several diverging perspectives. After nine years of public education, he was accepted to a college-prep high school on full scholarship, which allowed him to study abroad in France and socially organize for the first time. When he entered college, Brad became active in political activism and student life. While there, he helped coordinate the Ann Arbor Women's March and established a student organization that advocates for on-campus affordability. He hopes that his involvement in these fields will lead to a career in international development and diplomacy. During his free time, Brad works at the Housing Office as a student representative and at the Mosher-Jordan Dining Hall as a dishwasher and server. Off the clock, he enjoys following Michigan sports and writing songs on guitar.



**Lydia Murray**  
**Signal Group**

Lydia Murray is a senior at the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, where she focuses on Foreign Policy and International Business. Her interest in foreign affairs began when she moved overseas at the age of nine to Chennai, India before ultimately graduating from high school in Shanghai, China. After arriving at university,

Lydia has pursued internships relating to policy and writing, working for a Congressman, a campaign, the State Department, and her university newspaper. After graduation, she hopes to work in international economics for a government agency, consulting firm, or think tank. When she's not working on academics or internships, Lydia writes a humor column, tutors ESL adults in the Ann Arbor Latinx community, and runs empowerment workshops for high school students.



**Jonathan Percy**  
**Office of Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)**

Jon Percy is a sophomore in Aerospace Engineering, interested in a career in space policy. Jon's interest in space began at a young age, as an avid reader of science fiction. Simultaneously, Jon developed a deep interest in politics and U.S. policy, spurred by both family and school. In high school, Jon competed in both FIRST Robotics and Model United Nations. Once in University, Jon decided to follow his more technical interests, but continued to participate in Model United Nations by helping run the University's conference. Jon is also an active member of Triangle Engineering Fraternity, serving as a justice on the Michigan Chapter Judicial Board as well as a justice on the Greek Life wide Greek Activities Review Panel. Outside of school, Jon enjoys camping and hiking, having spent his childhood in the outdoors through Cub Scouts then Boy Scouts. He has also kept his love of science fiction, and he is still an avid reader.





**Brandon Pope**  
**USAID**

Brandon Pope is a junior at the University of Michigan majoring in Political Science with a minor in Community Action and Social Change. His interest in policy and social change began in 2010 when his mother's life was inadvertently saved by her own service to others. Since then, Brandon has worked with and for community outreach programs, regularly volunteered, and focused his studies on quantitative, American, and world politics to better understand policy choices and the impact they have. Brandon has supplemented those interests with two study abroad programs, one in London focused on Community Action and Social Change, and the other in Costa Rica which will be focused on sustainable food, energy, and water systems. In the future Brandon hopes to facilitate community based participatory research that results in effective and positive policy implementation. In his spare time Brandon enjoys running, reading, and traveling with friends and family.



**Olivia Regnier**  
**State Department Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs**

Olivia Regnier is in her fourth year at the University of Michigan where she is quadruple majoring in Political Science; Environment; International Studies; and Russian, East, European, and Eurasian Studies. Olivia is minoring in Russian Language, Literature, and Culture. Olivia is interested in energy security in Eastern Europe, and the intersection of Eastern European and US geopolitics. Her interest in energy began during a summer spent taking geological field

courses in Wyoming, although her love of the outdoors began early on. As a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellow through the Department of Education, Olivia has been able to further her studies of Russian language and culture, and explore the ways in which this impacts foreign policy and specific country needs. In the future, Olivia hopes to address international issues of energy and sustainability from a political perspective. When she isn't practicing her Russian, Olivia enjoys backpacking, rock climbing, and volunteering with her community service fraternity.



**Matisse Rogers**  
**Bose Public Affairs Group**

Matisse Rogers is a senior at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor where she is majoring in Public Policy with a focus in Racial Inequities in Law and Policy with a minor in Writing. She has an interest in furthering efforts for institutional diversity, which began during her internship with the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport Commission. During this time, she drafted a strategic hiring plan for the organization after conducting interviews and empirical research on the benefits of diversity in business. On campus, Matisse serves as the Business Manager for the Michigan Yearbook, as well as a student representative for the Office of Enrollment Management. Matisse aspires to attend law school after graduating from Michigan to further her goal of addressing racial inequity from a legal perspective. In her spare time, Matisse enjoys practicing yoga and tutoring college applicants from Detroit Public Schools.





**Jacob Roodvoets**  
**House Energy and Commerce Committee**

Jake Roodvoets is a senior at the University of Michigan where is majoring in Political Science. His interest in public service, particularly in foreign affairs, stems from his family, which includes five teachers and a brother serving in the Marines. He learned about the importance of foreign policy when visiting his uncle in Egypt, meeting locals, and researching America's role in the region. Inspired by this experience, Jake coauthored over four research projects relating to the Syrian Civil War, the Iraqi War, Al Qaeda, and the Paris Climate Agreement. Following this, Jake interned with Congressman Mike Bishop and later Congressman Fred Upton, learning more about the dynamics of congressional policymaking. Jake aspires to pursue a career with a congressional committee, working with policymakers to craft U.S. foreign policy. When he is not busy reading about current events, he enjoys debating in the Michigan Political Union and exploring downtown Ann Arbor.



**Taylor Shotwell**  
**Partnership for Public Service**

Taylor Shotwell is a senior at the University of Michigan where she is majoring in Political Science with a minor in Gender, Race, & Nation. Prior to Political Science, she was interested in a career in healthcare, where she obtained her certification as a nurse aide and worked at a health center with elderly patients. Although she enjoyed working with patients, she realized her passion was in education when she became involved in research during her sophomore year at

the University of Michigan. For the past year, she has been a research assistant for a project studying how growing up in poverty impacts the brain development and academic outcomes of at-risk adolescents in the Detroit, Chicago, and Toledo areas. Through her research, she has become passionate about PreK-12 education policy and poverty alleviation. Taylor aspires to pursue a career in education policy research and develop programs to expand opportunities for underserved students. When she is not studying, she enjoys doing yoga and tutoring students at an education non-profit in Ann Arbor.



**Ryan Vennard**  
**Mothership Strategies**

Ryan Vennard is a Junior at the University of Michigan studying Political Science and Sociology with an interest in socioeconomic inequality and politics. Growing up in rural Ohio, Ryan is profoundly influenced by a quote from the founder of the Boy Scouts Robert Baden Powell: "Try and leave this world a little better than when you found it". To this end, Ryan has studied education policy, urban inequality, and researched the effects of lobbying in politics. As a tour guide, Ryan tries to improve his university by engaging with interested potential students. He works to make sure families visiting the University have an interesting, fun, and informative experience. Ryan is a member of the Michigan Mock Trial team and the University of Michigan Biophysics Club.



**Steven Waganfeald**

National Archives- Boeing Learning Center

Steven Waganfeald is a sophomore at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor where he is majoring in Secondary Education with a concentration in Social Studies. His interest in education policy began in his first semester at the University of Michigan when he attended a talk featuring an education policy expert, Maris Vinovskis. His interest in education as a whole began in high school where he admired many of his teachers and began thinking about how he could help as many people as possible, he decided that education was the best route to take. Volunteering with 826Michigan, a nonprofit, after-school tutoring organization has only solidified this decision. His work with students of all ages gives him the ability to see into the problems that these students face in and out of the classroom. Steven aspires to work as a high school teacher for a number of years before returning to grad school to pursue a degree in education policy in order to shape state and federal education for years to come. When he is not busy tutoring or studying he enjoys photography and researching the history of world politics.