



RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK
Eagleton Institute of Politics

CLASS OF 2025 EAGLETON UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATES

51st Cohort



Study politics. Inspire engagement, Improve democracy.

EAGLETON UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATES PROGRAM

The Eagleton Undergraduate Associates Program, established in 1974, is a signature education program of the Eagleton Institute of Politics. This 1.5-year interdisciplinary certificate program is open to juniors from all Rutgers schools, departments, and campus locations who are interested in American politics, government, policy and advocacy. Associates link the study of politics and power to its real-world application, while building knowledge, skills and networks for political, community, government, and social change during their last three semesters at Rutgers.

Associates earn 9 credits through 3 courses, an internship, and program sessions where they learn to:

- **understand** power dynamics, decision making processes, policies, and structure of American political and government systems
- **demonstrate** knowledge of how to positively impact government, politics and communities to improve American democracy
- **cultivate** positive behaviors and attitudes towards democratic values and good governance
- **develop** core personal, professional and advocacy skills necessary to be engaged citizens and adaptable public service leaders who address pressing social needs
- **explore** the role diversity in identity, beliefs, and political perspectives play in democratic discourse

Associates begin with the ***Practice of Politics*** course the spring of senior year, where they examine the role of power with a primary focus on American institutions and political behavior. What is power? How does it work in our political system – and what makes it a critical, but also troubling aspect of governance within a democratic system? These questions are explored with an emphasis on theories of power and its function throughout American history.

Associates participate in **program sessions** to build skills and networks including an **experiential education trip to the New Jersey State House in Trenton**. They also complete valuable public service internships in New Jersey, Washington D.C., and other states with a wide variety of placement options including all levels of government, public affairs, policy, advocacy and non-profit groups, political campaigns, lobbying firms, think tanks, and other interest groups to name a few. The accompanying ***Internship Seminar*** course in the fall fosters a deeper understanding of both the institutions and the individuals that shape public policymaking. In addition to learning about a variety of careers in the political realm, the class examines political decision-making and leadership in the workplace. Associates also hone their strategic thinking, communications, and professional networking skills during the course.

Associates complete the final ***Processes of Politics*** course spring of senior year, where they deepen and apply their understanding of politics and governance by providing windows into how the democratic process works, how decisions are made, and how they can play a part. Students consider topics seeking to be civically engaged and affect change, analyzing political decision-making and considering the ramifications of the processes and ultimate decisions on democratic ideals.

The 2025 cohort is the 51st class of Eagleton Undergraduate Associates. There are more than 1,200 alumni of the program from across Rutgers University. Most have chosen careers in politics and public service, while others have applied their advanced knowledge of government, politics and policy to a broad range of careers in the private, corporate and non-profit sectors. More information about the Eagleton Undergraduate Associates program can be found [here](#).

9/10/24

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AYESHA ALI



Ayesha Ali is a student in the **School of Arts of Sciences Honors Program at Rutgers-New Brunswick and Douglass Residential College** and currently resides in South Plainfield, New Jersey. She is **majoring in political science and double minoring in women's, gender, and sexuality studies and international and global studies**. She is completing her internship at the **New Jersey Office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations** during the fall semester. Ayesha is a Lloyd C. Gardner Fellow, working on an independent research project on the Partition of Pakistan and India in 1947 and analyzing how intergenerational trauma presents itself as prejudice for descendants of Partition survivors. She is also a part of Douglass College's Global Village Program for Race, Gender, and Identity and other organizations on campus, working alongside other students passionate about racial equality and social justice. Ayesha has worked as a Learning Assistant at Rutgers University for the course Modern Urdu Literature and Pop Culture, working alongside the course professor to engage students with South Asian culture, language, and literature. She has also worked with Rutgers University's Pre-College Initiatives and College Success Division of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement, where she interacted with middle school students from low-income, immigrant backgrounds for a college preparation workshop to motivate them about higher education. Ayesha was a part of the Rutgers Scarlet Service Internship Program, where she interned at PEN America's Artists at Risk Connection Program. Working at an organization that protects artistic freedom on a global scale has strengthened Ayesha's desire to advocate for human rights in the future. In her free time, Ayesha loves to drink coffee, read books, talk about pop culture, and travel.

GRACE ASARE



Grace Asare, a resident of Blackwood, New Jersey, is a **political science major double minoring in statistics and legal studies at Rutgers Camden's College of Arts and Sciences and Honors College**. She completed her internship over the summer at the **National Partnership for Women and Families** through the Rutgers Scarlet Service in Washington DC program. She also previously interned at Senator Cory Booker's district office and on New Jersey Senator Paul Moriarty's Legislative District 4 campaign. Grace attended an international conference on global reparations and met with a CARICOM Reparation Commission leader in Glasgow, Scotland as part of the Rutgers Global Justice Fellowship. Additionally, she is a part of the Fellows in Racial Justice Learning Community at Rutgers, where she works to impact social change by maximizing racial justice efforts on campus. Under the fellowship, Grace cofounded Student Housing and Environmental Advocacy Group (SHEAG) to push for improvements in housing and environmental conditions for the local Camden community. She spearheaded the group's first project which is a documentary entitled, "A Narrative on Camden's Resiliency: The Unspoken Housing and Environmental Issue." Outside of her internships and fellowships, Grace is a recipient of the Jacob Abraham and Mildred Amelia Baron Fund Award. After graduation, Grace is looking forward to going to law school with aspirations of practicing civil rights law. In her free time, she enjoys weight training and cooking new recipes.

JAVIER CORREOSO CALA



Javier Correoso Cala is a **School of Arts and Sciences senior at Rutgers-New Brunswick double majoring in political science and English**. Originally from Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, he currently resides in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Along with being an Eagleton Undergraduate Associate, he was selected for the Rutgers Scarlet Service in Washington DC program where he completed a summer internship at the **U.S. Department of Education, Grants Policy Office in the Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development**. He is pursuing a Creative Honors Thesis with the Rutgers English Department and has served as a tutor for writing courses in the department.

Javier's involvement on campus includes being an Aresty Research Assistant focusing on bilingual education policy, a member of the Rutgers Union of Cuban American Students (RUCAS), and a member of the Rutgers University Mock Trial Association (RUMTA). He plans to attend law school and practice law in the future.

CHACE DAVIS



Chace Davis, born and raised in Franklin, New Jersey, is currently a senior at **Rutgers University-Newark School of Criminal Justice majoring in criminal justice**. Chace completed a summer internship at the **Friends of the American Service Committee** in Newark and continues to serve in the Prison Watch division. This role allows him to advocate for and monitor the treatment of incarcerated individuals, ensuring their rights are upheld. As the President of the Criminal Justice Club, he leads initiatives to enhance academic and professional opportunities for students in the field. His hands-on experiences evidence his passion for the field. In the spring of 2022, Chace interned with the New Jersey State Police in Trenton, which provided him with a

robust understanding of law enforcement operations. Following this, he undertook a pivotal role in the fall of 2023 as an intern with the New Jersey State Parole Board, where he gained insights into the complexities of parole processes. Outside academic and professional life, he enjoys spending free time at the batting cages or catching a Yankee game with friends.

REESE FELDMAN



Reese Feldman is a senior in the **School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program at Rutgers-New Brunswick double majoring in statistics and data science with a minor in political science**. Reese grew up in East Brunswick, New Jersey, where she was raised to be conscious of current events, politics, and pressing issues in society. She completed a summer internship at the **New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education**. Reese strives to use her analytical and numerical skills to help lawmakers make data driven policy decisions. She is particularly interested in voting rights, having worked as a research assistant on the American Voter Project through the Rutgers ARESTY Undergraduate Research Assistant Program. Reese is very

involved on campus, serving as Treasurer of the Rutgers Hillel Student Board and restarting the religiously accommodating theater group, SHEM Productions. Reese is also a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society and works on campus as a Resident Assistant. Post graduation, Reese hopes to work as a political data analyst. In her free time, Reese loves to craft, watch sitcoms, and spend time with her friends and family.

CASEY FORTSON



Casey Fortson, a senior at **Rutgers-New Brunswick Honors College, School of Arts and Sciences, and the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy** majoring in **public health and minoring in political science**. He interned for the **Office of Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson** and was a member of the City of Trenton Mayor's Youth Council. His journey as a first-generation underrepresented minority and Upward Bound recipient has been an unconventional one. Throughout his Rutgers tenure he has been a part of many fulfilling and prosperous opportunities including the Lloyd Gardner Fellowship and Delta Scholars programs. He has served on the Student Advisory Board and Scarlet Honor Council. Casey was a Rutgers Truman Fellowship Nominee, and a University of Michigan HealthSpark Summer Scholar. He also received the New Jersey Black Caucus Award. These opportunities and programs have all culminated in increasing his curiosity of law, public health and public service. Outside of the classroom he enjoys watching the NBA, and thrift shopping.

MILENA GUEVARA



Milena Guevara is a first-generation senior at **Rutgers-New Brunswick School of Arts and Sciences and Douglass Residential College, double majoring in economics and political science**. At the New Brunswick campus, she is the founding President of the Latinx Pre-Law Society which is committed to empowering underrepresented students interested in pre-law by providing networking programs such as lawyer panels, law school admissions information sessions, and events with law students. She was elected to serve as the President of the Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Society at Rutgers University, Beta Omicron Chapter. Milena is also a Resident Assistant and Learning Assistant for *Intermediate Microeconomics* course taught by Professor Hughes. Milena interned at the **New Jersey Senate Democratic Office** through the Rutgers Scarlet Service Internship program. Milena was previously a legislative intern for New Jersey District 38 representatives: State Senator Lagana, Assemblywoman Swain, and Assemblyman Tully. She was also recently inducted into the Cap and Skull Honor Society. During her free time, she enjoys listening to music and spending quality time with family, friends, and dog, Lucy.

MAYA KRAUSS



Maya Krauss is a senior from Maplewood, New Jersey, in the **School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, the School of Arts and Sciences, and Douglass Residential College at Rutgers-New Brunswick**. She is majoring in **political science with minors in environmental policy, institutions, and behavior and history**. Maya is completing a fall internship in the **Office of U.S. Congressman Frank Pallone**. She previously interned for New Jersey Senator John F. McKeon at his District Office in Madison. Maya is a member of the Global Leadership Program at the Douglass Residential College Global Village and serves on the Douglass Governing Council as Treasurer. She is the Assistant Director for the Institute for Domestic and International Affairs and participated in the RU Model United Nations conference. Maya participated in the Washington Semester Program at American University where she served as a Studies Intern at the National Academy of Public Administration, where she conducted research on human resources reform efforts across multiple federal agencies. She plans to apply for a Fulbright Scholarship and attend graduate school for international affairs, with career aspirations to become a Foreign Service Officer for the U.S. Department of State.

KEELY MAGEE



Keely Magee is a senior in the **School of Arts and Sciences and the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick. She is majoring in public policy and minoring in political science and gender and media.** Keely is from Flemington, New Jersey, but grew up in Indiana. Her interests focus on local and state government and politics, and youth civic engagement. She is completing a fall internship with the **New Jersey Business and Industry Association.** Keely created the Youth Outreach Program for the New Jersey Democratic State Committee in 2021, and currently manages the program as the Youth Coordinator.

In 2022, she was listed as one of the Operatives of the Year in NJ Globe's *Year in Review*. She has built a cross-organizational support network of youth activists, and has served as a youth outreach advisor to county parties, state and local campaigns. In 2022 and 2023, Keely designed voter education text campaigns for the General Election cycle, contacting over 60,000 young voters in New Jersey. For the past two years, Keely has also spearheaded the development of programming for the NJDSC for National Voter Education Day and National Voter Education Week. In 2021, Keely has experience organizing marches, rallies, summits, town halls, and voter education drives. Outside of this role, Keely has worked as a research assistant at Rutgers University-New Brunswick, analyzing public opinion of presidential candidates and intersection of motherhood/race/ethnicity of women candidates. Prior to starting college, Keely interned on NJ CAN 2020, the referendum campaign in favor of legalizing marijuana and with the Hunterdon County Democratic Committee. Keely plans to pursue a career in public affairs after completing a masters in public policy degree.

SOPHIA MALINSKY



Sophia Malinsky is a senior at **Rutgers-New Brunswick majoring in political science and Russian with a minor in critical intelligence studies through the School of Arts and Sciences.** Her academic interests focus on foreign policy strategy, linguistics and language learning, and national defense. She has completed a summer internship with **The Roosevelt Group**, a government relations firm on Capitol Hill. Sophia has conducted research with Professor Emily Van Buskirk on Russian history and culture, and is a member of a Yale student working group on Russian language in professional, political, and cultural scenarios. As a member of the Institute for Domestic and International Affairs, she has published two research briefs on international conflicts and domestic surveillance, and held the position of Chair of

the Judicial Council for the Rutgers University Student Assembly. In 2022, Sophia was a member of the Rutgers University Advocacy Corps and worked with the Rutgers Office of Federal Relations to review policy and advocate in favor expanded aid for education, where she developed an interest in policy strategy and government relations. Through the Center for Critical Intelligence Studies at Rutgers, Sophia completed an internship with the U.S. Coast Guard in New York, where she worked with the intelligence unit to learn about collection methods and risk assessment. She has expanded her international perspective as an intern at Rutgers Global, analyzing data on Study Abroad programs and connecting with fellow Language Engagement Project professors and students. Sophia is a member of Phi Sigma Iota and an IC CAE Scholar and represented Rutgers as the nominated student for the ODNI Summer Seminar. She also works at the Rutgers Makerspace as one of its senior staff members. She plays tennis and spends time with friends in her free time.

WILLA MCBRIDE



Willa McBride is a senior **Honors College and College of Arts and Sciences** student at **Rutgers-Camden** majoring in **political science with minors in legal studies and criminal justice**. She received the Rutgers-Eagleton Washington DC Internship Award, specifically from the Katherine K. Neuberger Legacy Fund. This specific fund supports students dedicated to women's political leadership. Willa completed her summer internship at the **Women's Bureau in the U.S. Department of Labor**. During her internship, Willa focused on multiple projects and research efforts relating to the priorities of the Women's Bureau, working women specifically. Willa was born and raised in Voorhees, New Jersey, and graduated from Eastern Regional

High School. Willa currently serves as the President of both the Political Science Society and the Black Student Union. She is also the Inaugural Secretary for the Rutgers-Camden NAACP Chapter and focuses on timely correspondence and outreach. Additionally, she is a Resident Assistant for upperclassmen and graduate students. As President of the Political Science Society, Willa has advocated for greater accessibility for undergraduate programming with Rutgers Law. She leads community outreach efforts to speak to secondary students about college preparedness during her tenure as President of the Black Student Union. In her free time, Willa likes to research, explore new cities, and read. Upon graduation, Willa plans to pursue a fellowship to continue to broaden her knowledge in public policy and policy interests before attending law school.

XÓCHITL STEPHANIE MIRANDA BONILLA



Xóchitl Stephanie Miranda Bonilla is a proud Mexican American and first-generation college student at **Rutgers University–New Brunswick**, where she is a senior in the **Honors Program at the School of Arts and Sciences and Douglass Residential College**. She is pursuing a **major in political science with minors in women's, gender, and sexuality studies, as well as Latino and Caribbean studies**. This past summer, she interned at **Martha's Table**, a nonprofit in Washington, D.C., through the Rutgers Scarlet Service in Washington, D.C. Program. Martha's Table is dedicated to supporting the success of Washington, D.C. residents, particularly those in Wards 7 and 8, who face systemic barriers like food insecurity. Xóchitl's

passion for human rights and social justice has been a driving force throughout her academic and professional journey. On campus, Xóchitl has held several leadership roles, including serving as the Creative Director for F.A.C.E., the modeling and fashion club at Rutgers, for two years. She began her journey with F.A.C.E. as an Assistant Creative Director. She also contributes her talents as a graphic designer for LLEGO: The LGBTQIA People of Color Organization at Rutgers. Xóchitl is an active member of Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority, Inc., where she has taken on multiple roles, including Vice President, Historian, Treasurer, Sisterhood Bonding Chair, Secretary, Co-Public Relations Chair, and Social Media Chair. Her dedication to the sorority's mission of educating, elevating, and empowering women aligns with her commitment to political, educational, cultural, and social awareness. In her sophomore year, Xóchitl revitalized the Latin American Women Organization (L.A.W.O.) and served as its President for two years. She dedicated herself to rebuilding the organization and fostering relationships within the Latine community, focusing on creating a supportive space for Latine women and preserving their cultural heritage on campus. Additionally, Xóchitl served as the Historian of the Latino Student Council, where she documented the community's ongoing history and spearheaded the council's first event that awarded a scholarship to a student in the Latine community. Beyond her academic and leadership pursuits, Xóchitl has a passion for gardening, photography, and sewing.

LOGAN PINEDA



Logan Pineda is a first-generation student majoring in **political science and criminal justice with a minor in Spanish through the Honors Program at the Rutgers-New Brunswick School of Arts and Sciences**. This past summer he completed an internship at the **U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee** through the Rutgers Scarlet Service in Washington DC program. Born and raised in Long Hill, New Jersey, he is interested in immigration reform, national security, and foreign policy and hopes to pursue law school to find a career in those fields. He currently serves as Vice President of the Latinx Pre-Law Society under the Center for Latino Arts and Culture (CLAC). Under the Lloyd C. Gardner Fellowship, he worked with Dr. Kenneth

Sebastian León on researching *mano dura* policies in El Salvador through a qualitative content analysis of digital videos. Logan was previously a legal intern at Bond and Posluszny Law Office, an intern at the Center for Youth Political Participation's RU Ready program, and a student volunteer at the Puerto Rican Action Board. Most recently, Logan was a "Civics Leaders" Fellow under the Ronald Reagan Presidential Institute in Washington, D.C., a 6-month fellowship for 20 students selected from across the country to build their leadership, professional development, and civic engagement skills by fostering connections to nonprofit organizations and government agencies. In his free time, Logan enjoys tweeting about the Philadelphia 76ers, participating in CLAC student organizations, and exercising.

VICTORIA RICHARD



Victoria is a senior in the **Honors College and School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers-New Brunswick, majoring in political science with a double minor in Spanish and critical intelligence studies**. Last summer she completed an internship at the **Blue Haven Initiative** in Cambridge, Massachusetts focused on utilizing wealth to create positive social and environmental change. On campus, she leads conferences through the Institute of Domestic and International Affairs that empower young students to learn about government, current events, and recent geopolitical issues. She also interns for the Rutgers Office of Federal Relations where she assists in advocating for issues such as student aid, sustainable infrastructure, academic

freedom, and much more at the federal government level. While at Rutgers, Victoria has been a member of the Rutgers Scarlet Service in Washington DC inaugural cohort and was able to spend the summer in the nation's capital, gaining invaluable experience in the professional world. She has also done extensive work with Eagleton's Center for Youth Political Participation, working with students both on and off campus to raise awareness around the importance of civic engagement and increasing voter turnout. She has earned the Rhode Island Civic Leadership Award, served as the RI delegate for the United States Senate Youth Program, and is now a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honors society. Outside of Rutgers, she has done work in her home state of RI with the Rhode Island State House as a Student Representative for former Governor Raimondo's Gun Safety Task Force and interned for her local Congressman. Victoria hopes to pursue a career in education policy with a focus on civic education research and is excited to contribute all she can to this cohort. In her free time, you can find her cozied up with a book, listening to music, or hiking with her parents.

AYLA RIOS



Ayla Rios is a senior in the **Rutgers-New Brunswick School of Arts (SAS) and Sciences studying political science with minors in criminology and data science.** She is also a proud member of **the Douglass Residential College and SAS Honors Program.** She was born and raised in Lawrence Township, New Jersey and is a graduate of Lawrence High School. In the summer of 2023, she interned in the Mercer County Counsel's Office under the county's official legal counsel, Paul R. Adezio. On campus, Ayla works as a Resident Assistant for Rutgers freshmen and as a tutor in the Gary and Barbara Rodkin Academic Success Center. She is also involved with the Rutgers Salsa Club and WRSU, the student-run college radio

station. This fall she will be completing an internship at the **New Jersey Senate Majority Office.** In her free time, she draws and writes original fiction stories. Ayla plans to run for public office in her hometown and one day hold the position of County Executive in Mercer County to better serve her community.

HALEEMA SHEIKH



Haleema Sheikh is a senior from Totowa, New Jersey pursuing a major in **economics with a minor in legal studies at the Rutgers-Newark College of Arts and Sciences.** This past summer she completed an internship at the **Superior Court of New Jersey – Essex Vicinage.** Haleema has been actively involved in campus leadership roles since her freshman year. She served as the Public Relations Officer for the Pre-Law Society for two years, and the Student Government Association, where she was elected as a community outreach senator. In this capacity, she spearheaded initiatives that fostered stronger ties between the Rutgers-Newark community and the City of Newark. As the Student Body Chief of Staff, she has led initiatives

addressing the diverse needs of the student body. This involves planning and implementing impactful initiatives, as well as presenting to the Chancellor's office. Outside of her campus commitments, she also works as a legal assistant at a law office in her hometown, where she handles a range of legal matters including real estate, divorce, criminal, civil, and personal injury cases. Haleema has served as an Editor for the Eagleton Political Journal. Looking ahead, she is determined to pursue a legal career and plans to attend law school upon graduation. While she is open to exploring various fields of law, she is particularly passionate about corporate law, with a focus on mergers and acquisitions. Ultimately, her long-term aspiration is to serve on the bench as a superior court judge.

CHRISTOPHER SLIPIEC



Christopher Slipiec is a senior in the **School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers-New Brunswick studying political science and psychology with a minor in critical intelligence studies.** From Paramus, New Jersey, his academic interests include reforming the criminal justice system, the right to privacy, and free speech on college campuses. Chris completed a summer internship with the **Institute of International Education** through the Rutgers Scarlet Service in Washington DC program. Prior to joining the 2025 cohort, Chris spent much of his time at Rutgers finding ways to engage with the community. Through the RU Ready Program offered by the Eagleton Center for Youth Political Participation, Chris visited New

Brunswick High School where he shared the importance of civic engagement and getting involved in politics with students. He is also involved in the Institute for Domestic and International Affairs (IDIA), holding Committee Director and Director of Staff positions. Chris has written many policy briefs on both

foreign and domestic issues ranging from energy security in the United States to ethnic displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa. Chris is the Vice President of Pi Sigma Alpha and spends much of his time pursuing political science-oriented endeavors. As a Lloyd C. Gardner Fellow, he is researching democratic backsliding and institutional change using the 2023 Polish election as a case study. After graduation, Chris plans on taking time off to travel the world and broaden his horizons before attending law school. In his free time, he enjoys reading, listening to music, going on hikes, and playing volleyball.

YASHI SRIVASTAVA



Yashi Srivastava, from South Brunswick New Jersey, is a **School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program senior, pursuing a major in information technology and informatics and a minor in digital communication, information, and media at the Rutgers-New Brunswick School of Communication and Information.** She completed a summer internship as a Communications Intern at Education Trust, a non-profit focused on breaking down racial and economic barriers within the U.S. Education System, through the inaugural cohort of the Rutgers Scarlet Service in Washington DC Program. She is also completing a fall internship in the **Office of Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman.** Yashi's interests lie in health and technology, with a particular focus on digital advocacy in the tobacco prevention field. As the founding President of Incorruptible U, the only student organization on campus dedicated to addressing the impacts of tobacco and nicotine, Yashi raises awareness about the vaping epidemic. In high school, she formed a chapter of the statewide youth tobacco action group, Incorruptible Us. She has presented at conferences such as the Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit and delivered the closing keynote speech for the 2023 Texas Say What! Tobacco-Free Conference. On campus, she serves as an Alcohol & Other Drugs Peer Educator, and Co-Chair of the Mandated Sessions Committee through HOPE (Health Outreach, Promotion & Education), and Vice President of the Rutgers One Health Club. Previously, Yashi served as an Orientation Leader and Social Media Intern for the Student Orientation and Transition Programs Department and has taught the *Exploring IT & Informatics* course as a First-Year Interest Group Seminar Peer Instructor. Off campus, she serves as the Youth-Board Liaison for the Board of Directors at the Truth Initiative—a DC non-profit tobacco control organization. In the past, she has also held ambassador positions at the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Recently, Yashi was awarded the MyMark Leadership Award for her leadership in tobacco prevention and mental health efforts on campus. After college, Yashi aims to work in a project management or UX/UI role at a technology or media-based company. Ultimately, she hopes to work for a health organization or campaign advocating for tobacco and nicotine prevention. In her free time, Yashi enjoys watching the sunrise, spending time with family and friends, playing the ukulele, and watching TV shows.

HALEY TAM



Haley Tam, from Montville, New Jersey, is a senior in the **School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program at Rutgers New Brunswick. She is a double major in psychology and political science with a minor in international and global studies.** This past summer she completed an internship on the **Tanya Woo for City Council campaign** in Seattle, Washington. Haley is part of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology, and Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest college academic honorary society in America that celebrates excellence in the liberal arts and sciences. She has also been a two-time recipient of the School of Arts and Sciences Excellence Award. Haley is a member of the Rutgers Pre-Law Society and the Rutgers Women's Gaming League. Haley has served as a speech and debate judge and math instructor along with experience

completing marketing and project management internships. After graduation, she hopes to further her education by pursuing postgraduate studies in law and business with the hopes to become a lawyer in the advocacy realm.

NICO (RACHEL) TOEPFER



Nico Toepfer is an **Honors College senior from Massachusetts majoring in political science and minoring in women's, gender, and sexuality studies studies at the Rutgers-New Brunswick School of Arts and Sciences (SAS)**. This past summer, Nico completed an internship in the **Office of U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren**. Nico has gotten involved in their communities as student co-leader of the Rutgers Honors College's LGBTQ+ Affinity group, the chair of the Young Democrats of Massachusetts's LGBTQ+ caucus, a Change Making Mentor for the Honors College, a videography co-lead of the Honors College Media Team, a learning assistant for the class *Topics in Math for Liberal Arts*. Nico has completed internships and served as deputy convention director, elections coordinator, and convention staffer for the Massachusetts Democratic Party. Nico has been a Residence Life Assistant in Demarest Hall, an affinity group lead, a learning assistant for the Cross Cultural Competency Course at the Honors College, and a member of the Honors College LGBTQ+ Collaborative, as well as pursued work with the Democratic Party of Massachusetts as both a caucus member of the Democratic State Committee, and a part-time convention staffer for the party. Nico received the SAS Excellence award, the Henry Rutgers Scholarship, and the Rutgers Trustee Scholarship. After their undergraduate degree, Nico looks forward to taking some time to get involved with local politics before pursuing a law degree. Outside of school and career plans, Nico often spends time working on digital art, honing their photography skills, and going to the Millburn Paper Mill Playhouse to see new up and coming musicals.

DANIELA VALVERDE



Daniela Valverde is a senior at **Rutgers-New Brunswick, pursuing a double major in public policy and political science through the School of Arts and Sciences, the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy and Douglass Residential College**. Originally from Linden, New Jersey, Daniela completed a summer internship on policy implementation at the **New Jersey Department of Labor and Workplace Development** through the Rutgers Scarlet Service Internship Program. Her commitment to civic engagement and advocacy is evident through involvement in Rutgers Bonner Leaders and Douglass Residential College Programs such as the Global Leaders, Global Village, and The Reilly BOLD program. At Eagleton, Daniela participated in the Susan N. Wilson NEW Leadership program at the Center for American Women and Politics and has focused on campus-wide engagement strategies fostering civic education and participation through the Center for Youth Political Participation. Daniela honed advocacy skills on Capitol Hill by participating in the Rutgers Advocacy Corps through the Rutgers Office of Federal Relations. Throughout her academic journey, Daniela has actively sought opportunities to translate theoretical knowledge into tangible community impact. From collaborating with organizations like CASA Freehold to serving as a field organizer for the Legislative District 16 Democrats, she has demonstrated a dedication to grassroots engagement and political activism. She also completed an internship at MBI focused on education policy. Daniela's career aspirations revolve around becoming a lobbyist and policy analyst, advocating for diverse interest groups and ensuring that marginalized voices are represented in policymaking processes. She is deeply invested in addressing issues such as funding disparities, standardized testing, teacher retention, and equitable access to quality education for all students.

SAMAHAL WASEEM



Samahal Waseem is a **Rutgers-New Brunswick School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program student from Woodbridge, New Jersey double majoring in political science and psychology with minors in education and women, gender, and sexuality studies.** She participated in the Rutgers Summer Service Internship program where she interned at the Newark Opportunity Youth Network at LEAD Charter School exploring various racial and socioeconomic issues and their intersection with the education of at-risk youth. This past summer she completed an internship in the **New Jersey Department of Children and Families.** She has also interned with Eagleton's Center for American Women in Politics working on various research projects and their initiative to increase the presence of women in the political sphere through the New Leadership training program. Samahal is involved on campus through her role as President of the Pre-Law Society, where she supports undergraduate students in their exploration of the legal field, as well as with the Institute of Domestic and International Affairs where she works to promote civic engagement among high school students. She is also pursuing a certificate in women's leadership through the Institute for Women's Leadership, where she completed a social action project focused on the experiences of Muslim women in the workplace. Samahal is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honors Society. Outside of school, she is interested in poetry, reading, and enjoys dystopian and mystery films!

JAMES (ZHICHAO) XI



James Xi is a senior in the **Rutgers Business School and Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick studying marketing and public policy, with a minor in geography.** James grew up in Memphis, TN, before finishing high school in Millburn, New Jersey. This fall he will be interning at **Mercury Public Affairs.** James has canvassed as part of Environment NJ, knocking on doors to advocate for environmental legislation in the New Jersey State Senate. Last summer he was an Economist Intern at the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, developing policy recommendations for future Offshore Wind Solicitations in New Jersey and the feasibility of a 100% clean energy standard. James has also worked as a marketing and communications intern at Solar Landscape, helping to generate awareness of the success of Community Solar in New Jersey. Deeply passionate about marketing, James serves as the President of the Rutgers Association of Marketing & Strategy, speaking and paneling all over the business school. He also enjoys sharing his passion through teaching and mentoring smaller groups of students either at RAMS or during his time as a First-Year Interest Group seminar (FIGS) instructor. After graduation, James plans to attend law school and work in the energy industry. Aside from his professional life, James is the co-president of the Chinese Christian Fellowship and is involved with Praise Emmaus Ministry and RUnited on campus. James loves to identify trees and birds, take photos for his friends, and make skit.