



# CLASS OF 2024

## EAGLETON GRADUATE FELLOWS



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## EAGLETON GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Eagleton Graduate Fellowship Program, a core education program of the Eagleton Institute of Politics, was one of the first activities undertaken by the Institute after it was established in 1956 with a bequest from Florence Peshine Eagleton. Rutgers graduate students, selected for the program from all campus locations, develop an advanced knowledge of government, American politics, policy, and advocacy and build professional skills and networks to apply through their chosen field of study.

Over the years, the Fellowship Program has expanded and changed, but its vision, mission and values have remained constant. Between 1957 and 1994, the program was conducted in partnership with the Department of Political Science at the Graduate School - New Brunswick, where Fellows earned a master's degree in political science. From 1995 to 2000 the program was administered in collaboration with the Department of Public Policy at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, where graduates earned a master's degree in public policy. Since the fall of 2000, the Eagleton Graduate Fellowship Program has been an interdisciplinary certificate, open to all Rutgers graduate students interested in politics and government. Fellows have come from the New Brunswick, Camden and Newark campus locations, representing more than 46 departments in the social sciences, humanities and natural sciences and twenty different graduate and professional schools that reflect a wide variety of interests and perspectives.

Eagleton Fellows work toward their graduate degrees without interruption; the one-year fellowships are designed to complement academic study. Throughout the year, Eagleton gives students access to practitioners in state and national politics and government who serve to bridge the gap between the academic training of a graduate student and the everyday challenges of a life in politics and public affairs. All Fellows take a unique seminar course in the fall that provides in-depth knowledge of politics, policy, and government. Each spring, Fellows participate in advanced internships in the New Jersey Legislature, Office of the Governor, state executive agencies/departments, and government offices at the local, county, state, regional, and federal levels.

Over 1,200 alumni have graduated from the program since the first class in 1958. Many choose careers in public service, while others apply their sophisticated knowledge of politics and government as advocates and change agents for democracy through public, corporate, and non-profit sectors in a wide variety of fields across the country.

The 2024 cohort is the 67<sup>th</sup> class of Eagleton Fellows. Twenty-seven fellowships were granted for this academic year through four related awards: Harold and Reba Martin, Henry J. Raimondo Legislative, Governor's Executive, and Eagleton Alumni. More information on the program can be found at [eagleton.rutgers.edu/grad-fellowships](https://eagleton.rutgers.edu/grad-fellowships)

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### Kristine Baffo



Kristine Baffo is a New Jersey native and third-year law student at Rutgers Law School - Newark. Before entering law school, she attended Rutgers University New Brunswick, where she received a bachelor's degree in political science and an Undergraduate Associate's certificate in American Politics and Public Policy from the Eagleton Institute of Politics. Kristine also is a Cap and Skull Senior Honors Society member and served as student body president. Before entering law school, Kristine worked in healthcare, focusing primarily on fundraising, community engagement, and diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy with corporate entities. At Rutgers Law, Kristine is a member of the Association of Black Law Students, Health Law Society, and Constitutional Law Clinic. She is also an Editor-In-Chief for the Rutgers Business Law Review and a Marsha Wenk Fellow with the ACLU. Kristine's experience includes internships with Goldman Sachs and the Honorable José R. Almonte, U.S.M.J. Kristine is a Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award recipient. Upon graduation, she will join Paul Hastings, LLC. as an Associate in their New York office.

### Joseph Baldofsky



Joseph Baldofsky is a third-year student at Rutgers Law School – Newark, where he is a student attorney for the Federal Tax Clinic and editor-in-chief of the Rutgers Law Record. This past summer, Joseph was a law clerk at Chasan Lamparello Mallon & Cappuzzo, where he worked on municipal litigation. During his second year of law school, Joseph interned with the Honorable Julien X. Neals, U.S.D.J. Prior to law school, Joseph served as the confidential aide to the Bergen County Executive, assisting with the County's initial response to the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent community outreach programs. In 2021, Joseph was elected to the Fair Lawn Board of Education as the youngest elected official in his hometown. As a trustee, he is passionate about improving the services available to students, especially mental health resources, enhancing the integration of technology in the classroom, and addressing the environmental and fiscal sustainability of the district. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in history, with a minor in political science, from The College of New Jersey in 2019. At TCNJ, Joseph was a founding father of the College's Beta Theta Pi fraternity chapter and was president of the Residence Hall Association. During his penultimate semester, he studied in Washington D.C. through the Washington Center and interned at a local non-profit. Joseph is honored to receive the Governor's Executive Award and looks forward to building a career in public service.

### Nashia Basit



Nashia Basit, from Piscataway, New Jersey, is a dual Master of Public Policy/Master of City and Regional Planning candidate with a focus in social policy and community development at the Edward J Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University New Brunswick. She is currently interning with the Office of the Governor/Legislative Affairs division. She is an ANHD/Morgan Stanley Community Development Graduate Fellow and serves on the executive boards of the Women's Leadership Coalition and the Bloustein Social Justice Committee. Her previous work experiences include the Lionheart Foundation, Environmental Analysis and Communications Group, Alan M Voorhees Center, Center for American Women and Politics, and the Department of Children and Families. She graduated from Rutgers in 2020 with dual degrees in political science and communication with certificates in Women's Leadership/Social Change and American Politics and Policy and was a Leadership Scholar at the Institute for Women's Leadership, a Ralph Voorhees Fellow for Public Service, and an Eagleton Undergraduate Associate. Nashia received the Eagleton Alumni Award. She is passionate about expanding opportunities for underserved communities through the implementation of new social safety net programs.

### **Kevin Bernard**



Kevin Bernard is a second-year graduate student at the Rutgers Newark Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, pursuing a Master of Political Science degree with a concentration in comparative politics. He completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science with a minor in African American studies and sociology at Montclair State University. During his time as an undergraduate student, Kevin served as a Vice President and then President at the Montclair State NAACP collegiate chapter, served as SGA legislator and mentor of RISE mentor Newark organization. During that time, Kevin also served as second Vice president of NJ NAACP state division Youth and College and interned for legislator Senator Richard J. Codey as a legislative aid. He began his professional career as a Humanities teacher at the North Star Academy and continued his affiliation to contribute to the growth and development of Newark students. He is currently a humanities teacher at North Star Academy, 2023 NJ Legislative Black Caucus Graduate Fellow, and first vice president of the New Jersey NAACP State Division Youth and College, where he is working on engaging with political leaders on either the municipal or state level to influence laws and policies. Kevin is a proud Newark resident, Haitian American, and son of an immigrant. His passion lies in the field of social movement and political theory to create positive change for all members of society. Kevin received the Governor's Executive Award. He hopes to publish various editions of scholarly work and work as an advocate with NGOs and elected officials that will directly serve and provide significant change and opportunities for the world.

### **Tiani Boapeah**



Tiani Boapeah, a native of South Jamaica Queens, is currently a rising third-year law student at Rutgers Law School Newark. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in political science and history from City University of New York/Queens College, where she actively participated in Model United Nations and Amnesty International. Tiani's experiences as an educator within the New York City Department of Education sparked her passion for advocacy, creating impactful policies, and helping underserved communities. During the 2022-2023 school year, Tiani served as the Vice President of Academic Affairs for the Association of Black Law Students and took on roles as a Teaching Fellow and President of Ambassadors for the Minority Student Program. In the upcoming school year, she will be serving as the Senior Notes and Comments Editor for the Rutgers University Law Review. Tiani has also participated in the Honorable Stern Bankruptcy Pro Bono Project which helps residents of New Jersey in filing Chapter 7 petitions for Bankruptcy. Tiani's legal experiences have been diverse, including internships at firms such as Wilentz Goldman & Spitzer and Schulte Roth & Zabel. In the spring of 2023, she had the opportunity to work as a legal intern for the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General/Division on Civil Rights, where she gained insight into researching and addressing issues of bias and discrimination faced by marginalized youth in the state. This experience solidified her passion for advocacy through policy, fueling her aspiration to become an Eagleton Fellow. Tiani received the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award. As an Eagleton Fellow, she aims to broaden her skill set and gain knowledge of various career paths in policymaking. Equipped with these tools, she hopes to excel in her future career in legislation and policy work.

### **Malley Chertkov**



Malley Chertkov, raised in Millstone, New Jersey, was excited to attend Rutgers Law School - Camden. Malley graduated from Wellesley College in 2019 with a degree in philosophy and went on to work as a paralegal at the U.S. Department of Justice in the Criminal Division/Fraud Section, helping prosecute individuals for serious financial crimes and major market fraud. While in college, they were a board member of Wellesley Against Mass Incarceration and worked as a tutor and volunteer coordinator for the Petey Greene program, tutoring and helping develop curriculum for incarcerated students in Massachusetts. They also worked as an intern investigator at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia. During their time at Rutgers Law, they interned at the ACLU of New Jersey, the Philadelphia Defender Association, and externed at the Department of Justice Special Litigation Section. Malley is also a Senior Editor of the *Rutgers University Law Review*



and participated in Hunter Moot Court (Appellate Advocacy) where they placed first in the oral argument competition. Malley received the Governor's Executive Award. Upon graduating law school, Malley hopes to become a public defender, help shape criminal justice policy, and build institutions that allow for the holistic healing of both victims and perpetrators of harm, understanding that these categories are not mutually exclusive. The values that Malley hopes to see in our criminal legal system are those they hope to enact in their personal relationships as well: healing, forgiveness, grace, and generosity.

### **Quinnie Collins**



Hailing from Sydney, Australia, Quinnie Collins is a second-year graduate student at the School of Graduate Studies, Rutgers-New Brunswick pursuing a master's degree in political science. She serves as a Student Ambassador for the United Nations and Global Policy Studies Master's Program (UNMA) in the Department of Political Science. Quinnie is the Director of Constituent Affairs/Scheduler for Assemblyman Sterley Stanley, a job she was offered after her spring 2023 internship in the office. As a refugee from Liberia, her family accepted settlement in Australia. In 2018, Quinnie earned her Bachelor of Business degree majoring in international business and marketing from the University of Technology, Sydney. Quinnie has professional experience in international humanitarian service where she organized community-specific programs and networked in countries throughout Africa. She served as a mentor for the Intensive Leadership Training Program, through the KUWO Leadership Academy and Centre for Human Rights and Restorative Justice at McMaster University. Quinnie participated in human rights advocacy on the United Nations Red Card Campaign focusing on mobilizing all sectors of society to end all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls. Through this experience, she engaged with the delegation at the Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations. Quinnie received the Governor's Executive Award and is very intrigued to learn about the state and federal governments to expand on her international knowledge and experience. She hopes to run for office, as serving the public is one of her passions. Her four-year-old daughter, Brielle, also drives her passion to create a just society for her generation and onward. Quinnie is a strong believer in instilling knowledge in our youth to prepare them to be authentic leaders and change agents for the world we envision.

### **Lee Crutcher**



Lee Crutcher, from Orange, New Jersey, is currently in his third year at Rutgers Law School-Newark. He attended Ramapo College where he received a bachelor's degree in finance and a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in global business. During his time as a student, Lee completed various internships including Morgan Stanley, Volunteer Lawyers for Justice, the United States Bankruptcy Court/District of New Jersey and a Congressional campaign. At Rutgers Law, Lee has been the Staff Editor for Rutgers Business Law Review, a Teaching Fellow for Civil Procedure, in addition to serving on the Student Bar Association, a University Senator, Treasurer, Student Affairs Committee Chair and Audit Committee Chair; Street Law, a Representative of the American Constitution Society. He is also a member of the Minority Student Program. Lee received the Governor's Executive Award. After graduation, he aims to practice law and pursue a career in economic development.

### **Kathryn Daniel**



Kathryn Daniel is a third-year law student at Rutgers Law School-Newark, where she serves as Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Women's Rights Law Reporter. Originally from North Carolina, Kathryn graduated *summa cum laude* from North Carolina State University in 2013, having earned bachelor's degrees in business administration and communication, with a minor in international studies. In 2018, Kathryn moved abroad to pursue a Master of Philosophy degree in media from the University of Oslo, Norway. Her master's thesis analyzed the cultural context of media through the lens of local #MeToo campaigns in Norway and India, which enabled her to conduct qualitative on-the-ground interviews in both countries. Throughout the last decade, Kathryn has

gained public-interest work experience from the United Nations, United States House of Representatives, the ACLU of New Jersey, and the Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization at Yale Law School. As a steadfast advocate for gender equity, Kathryn actively takes part in conferences aimed at increasing women’s political participation, including the Center for American Women and Politics’ Ready to Run New Jersey campaign training program. She is honored to be the recipient of the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award.

### Frederick Davis III



Frederick (Freddy) Davis III is a third-year law student attending Rutgers Law School - Newark. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 2017 with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy. After graduating college, he joined the City of Orange Township Office of the Mayor/Law Department where he loved working to improve the lives of citizens. While at Rutgers, Freddy has served a representative of the Black Law Student Association and president of the Association of Black Law Students where he organized multiple community service efforts. He has been the associate editor of the Rutgers Race and the Law Review, a legal skills study group leader, and member of the Minority Student program and Labor & Employment Law Society. Freddy earned Dean’s list honors at Rutgers and assisted faculty with research on reducing administrative burden and making the federal bureaucracy more efficient and accessible to all. He currently serves as Regional Parliamentarian for the Northeast Region Black Law Students Association. Freddy enjoys coaching and mentoring as a basketball coach in a local youth league composed of mostly Black middle schoolers. He received the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award. After law school, he will join Sullivan & Cromwell LLP as an associate and later hopes to work in government or academia.

### Wilbert Davis



Wilbert (Wil) Davis is 3L at Rutgers Law School – Newark and an Eagleton Fellow receiving the Harold and Reba Martin Award. Wil was a Summer Associate at DLA Piper and is interning at the U.S. District Court of New Jersey during the fall 2023 semester. At Rutgers, Wil has been a member of the Minority Student Program, Co-Vice President for Community Outreach for the Association of Black Law Students, Co-Chair for Street Law, and member of Knowing Your Rights, where he taught high school students about their rights and how to interact with police. Wil has interned at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the ACLU-NJ, and the New Jersey Attorney General Office/Division on Civil Rights/Fair Chance Housing Unit. Wil also interned at *NBCUniversal* for *MSNBC* host Alex Witt and *The Last Word* with Lawrence O'Donnell. He also volunteered on the Innocent Project at the New Jersey Attorney General/Office of Public Integrity and Accountability. Wil was one of the 15 scholars selected by the American Political Science Association to participate in the 2019 Ralph Bunche Summer Institute. Wil is an alumnus of Hofstra University, where he double majored in journalism and political science. He remains active in their Black/Hispanic Alumni Association as Historian and Chair of Events and Community Outreach where he helped raise over \$20,000 for Black and Brown student scholarships. Wil served Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. as the Xi Psi Chapter President and received the fraternity’s Young Drum Major Award from the Eta Theta Lambda Chapter for community service and academic achievement. He is currently Co-Chair of the Go to High School, Go to College committee, which concentrates on educational programs in low-income communities. He recently established an Alpha Academy to help prepare high-school men for college and the post-secondary success.

### Trang Do



Trang K. Do is third-year student at Rutgers Law School – Camden. Before law school, Trang spent 14 years as a broadcast journalist, first earning a master of science degree in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, then going on to work at affiliates of the four major television networks: *ABC*, *CBS*, *FOX*, and *NBC*. Trang also holds a bachelor’s degree in mass communication from the University of Pennsylvania, where she graduated *magna cum laude*. She most recently worked at *CBS Philadelphia*, where her work was nominated for two Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards. A Philadelphia native, Trang is passionate about public education, having attended the city’s public schools from pre-k through high

school. She decided to go to law school to learn how to better advocate for her son with Angelman’s Syndrome—a rare neurogenetic disorder resulting in developmental delays. At Rutgers Law School, Trang is a Solomon Scholar and an articles editor for the Rutgers University Law Review. She was past co-president of Camden’s Asian Pacific American Law Students Association and one of two student members on the Dean Search Committee. Trang spent her first-year summer as a Philadelphia Diversity Law Group Fellow at Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, a nationally recognized boutique environmental and energy law firm. During the school year, Trang externed at the Education Law Center – PA, where she informed families of their rights and provided resources to help them advocate for their children’s educational needs. Her second-year summer, Trang was a summer associate at Ballard Spahr LLP, where she worked on media and First Amendment law matters, as well as pro bono prisoner civil rights litigation. Following graduation, she will be a judicial clerk for the Hon. Jane R. Roth on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. She is excited to receive the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award.

### **Laura Esteban Avila**



Laura N. Esteban Avila was born in Bogotá, Colombia and raised in Freehold, New Jersey. She is in her second, and final, year of pursuing a master’s degree in political science through the United Nations and Global Policy Studies (UNMA) program. She is a Scarlet Knight through and through as she also received her bachelor’s degree in political science and English at Rutgers-New Brunswick, with Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Sigma Alpha honors. Laura was a 2021 recipient of the Rutgers-Eagleton Washington Internship Award, which allowed her to work with the educational non-profit Character.org. Laura was also a member of the Advocacy Corps through the Rutgers Office of Federal Relations. Most recently she worked as the Acting Legislative Director for Assemblyman Stanley and is currently an Assistant Residence Life Coordinator within the Office of Residence Life as well as the Secretary for the Graduate Student Association. She is incredibly passionate about education and immigration policy and hopes to work in the policymaking arena to improve those two areas. As an immigrant who owes her success to education, Laura feels strongly about creating better systems so that more people have the opportunity to succeed. Laura received the Governor’s Executive Award.

### **Erica Fugger**



Erica Fugger (she/her) is a fourth-year Ph.D. Candidate in the American Studies program at Rutgers University - Newark. Her passion for studying history and politics was first sparked through civic lessons taught by her public school teachers in Middletown, CT. After graduating from Union College with a bachelor’s degree in history and German in 2012, she sought interdisciplinary training in oral history, an interview technique and research methodology that centers the voices of everyday people who experienced historical events firsthand. Erica went on to manage Columbia University’s Center for Oral History Archives and Oral History Master’s Program, while also teaching dozens of workshops to grassroots organizations in the New York City area that were interested in documenting their communities’ stories. She has since worked on numerous public humanities projects, ranging from national initiatives to preserve the memories of American civilians who experienced World War II to projects that amplify local LGBTQIA+ history. Erica currently serves as an archivist for the Fellowship of Reconciliation and a researcher for the Community Organizing Oral History Project, the latter of which interviews the leaders and organizers of New Jersey Together. Her efforts to combine deep historical inquiry with social change have been recognized through fellowships at Humanities Without Walls and the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis. She received the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award. Erica intends to pursue a career in public service that upholds the United State’s commitments to human rights and centers localized approaches to peacebuilding.



### **Mimi Hattoh**



Mimi Hattoh is a first-year master's of political science candidate with a concentration in United Nations and Global Policy Studies at Rutgers – New Brunswick. She received her bachelor of arts degree from Rutgers- New Brunswick, where she graduated *summa cum laude* with a degree in social work. Mimi is a proud member of the Mathew Ledyt Society and currently serves as a Graduate Assistant at the Center for Youth Political Participation. During her time as an undergraduate, Mimi's passion for community welfare led her to intern at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, where she collaborated closely with medical professionals, diligently working to connect patients with crucial community resources, including housing, food assistance, employment opportunities, and mental health services. Driven by a deep commitment to safeguarding democracy and the environment, Mimi is also a passionate advocate for women's and girls' rights. In the future, Mimi aspires to run for public office and ultimately focus her advocacy efforts in the areas of environmental justice and healthcare. She received the Harold and Reba Martin Award. Upon graduation, Mimi hopes to enter public service full-time and help create a more just, equitable, and compassionate society.

### **Katie Krumbholz**



Katie Krumbholz is a fifth year Ph.D. candidate in political science at Rutgers-New Brunswick studying American politics, public law, and methodology. She is originally from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she worked in administrative and reporting roles in various industries, including financial services, sales, production, and transportation before resuming her education. Katie received her bachelor's degree in political science with an emphasis in international relations from the University of Iowa in 2017, and her master's degree in political science with an emphasis in public policy from Iowa State University in 2019. Her own personal experiences with the criminal justice system motivated Katie to not only return to college to study political science, but also drives her specific research interests. Her master's thesis looked at the role of state political culture on felon disenfranchisement laws, and her dissertation argues that the criminal justice system can mold a unique social identity in system impacted individuals that influences their political attitudes and behavior. Katie has received several awards throughout her academic career at both Iowa State University and Rutgers, including the University and Bevier Dissertation Completion Fellowship for the current academic year. In her spare time, Katie likes to travel: to visit her daughter in North Carolina, her son in Iowa, her other son in Colorado – or to any other locations should the opportunity arise. Career plans involve the study of criminal justice reform in academia or the policy world. She received the Harold and Reba Martin Award from Eagleton.

### **Rita Mirabelli**



Rita Mirabelli is a second-year dual degree master's student in social work and public policy at the Rutgers School of Social Work and the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. Prior to this program, Rita completed a master's degree in school psychology from Columbia University Teachers College, and an undergraduate degree with a psychology and fine art from Loyola University, Maryland. As a council member on the Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital Family Advisory Council for the past ten years, Rita has been an advocate for family-centered care and promoted initiatives to enhance maternal and infant health and well-being. She recently completed her first-year internship at the International Rescue Committee, assisting with the resettlement and educational needs of newly arrived refugees and immigrant children and families. Her second-year internship at the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs/Division of Housing and Community Resources in the Office of Homelessness Prevention this fall. Rita hopes to integrate her knowledge and experience in the areas of mental health, child development and public education with the insight into public policy formation and implementation she gains from this program. She received the Harold and Reba Martin Award. In the future she aspires to work in public service to advance progressive state and federal policies, specifically those that promote equity and improve the well-being of women, children, families, and marginalized communities.



## Admir Molic



Admir Molic is a community organizer, activist, and DACA recipient originally from Kosovo, who has been actively involved in promoting immigration and criminal justice reform through his work with numerous organizations. He is a third-year student at Rutgers Law School – Newark. Prior to pursuing a law degree, Admir completed his master's degree in communications and public affairs at New York University. Currently, he is a member of the Rutgers Immigration Clinic. Additionally, Admir contributes to the Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion as a member of its executive board. Last spring, he had the privilege of interning as a Wenk Fellow with the ACLU of New Jersey, where he worked on various projects safeguarding the constitutional rights of undocumented residents, protecting voting rights, and advocating for workers' rights. This past summer he gained further legal experience as a summer associate at CSG Law. Admir received the Harold and Reba Martin Award.

## Maria Ortiz-Myers



Maria Ortiz-Myers is a six-year doctoral candidate in the library and information science department of the Rutgers School of Communication and Information in New Brunswick. Her research interests include information practice, particularly the communication and collaborative interactions between parents and children. Her dissertation explores how families of transgender and nonbinary youth pursue information. This work highlights the emotional salience of gender information, and the information management families perform under legal marginalization and disinformation conditions. Maria is also interested in exploring information ethics, access equity, and digital literacy topics. Maria lives in Bernardsville, New Jersey, but grew up in Brooklyn and attended St. Joseph's College (now University in New York). She majored in both biology and chemistry and, upon graduation, began her first job with Pfizer, Inc. as a manufacturing assistant supporting the production of prescription drugs. Maria has lived in Hoboken, New Jersey, the Kansas City, Kansas, and rural Iowa, where she continued in various positions in pharmaceutical manufacturing, quality assurance, and document control with Fort Dodge Animal Health before working as an independent contractor. Maria has a long history as a volunteer, serving with various community and school-based organizations such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, PTA, and the Johnson County Library in Lenexa, Kansas. Maria returned to New Jersey, where she earned a Master of Information from the Rutgers School of Communication and Information and transitioned to a career as a librarian. She has trained undergraduate research assistants in the Center of Alcohol Studies, Aresty Summer Research, and students in English Writing and Business Writing programs. Maria has also taught multiple courses in the Master of Information, and Information Technology and Informatics programs. She is honored to accept the Eagleton Fellowship Program's Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award. Maria looks forward to her spring internship and contributing to state leaders' understanding of information access issues.

## Michael Rallo



Michael Rallo is a medical doctor and neuroscience Ph.D. candidate at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. His upbringing in Orange County, New York - where the values of duty, honor, and country were instilled through Scouting and by his proud Marine Corps veteran grandfather – was formative in his commitment to a life of service as a physician-scientist. Michael pursued his undergraduate studies in cell biology and neuroscience at Rutgers where he graduated *summa cum laude* in 2017. As an undergraduate and now doctoral student Michael's passion lies in advancing care for the neurologically injured at the molecular, cellular, patient, and policy levels. His work describing the impact of disparity in Medicaid and Medicare physician payments on access to neurosurgical care was recently recognized with the Young Neurosurgeon's Award in Socioeconomics. When not in the lab or stuck behind a computer, Michael enjoys having "boots on the ground" through service as an EMT, firefighter, and Army Reserve Officer. He is an advocate for health literacy and preparedness and has led numerous community outreach sessions focused on head injury prevention and public access bleeding control. Michael's policy interests include emergency and disaster response, health system resiliency, healthcare financing, and scientific integrity. He received the Governor's Executive Award. Following graduation, he

hopes to pursue a career as a neurosurgeon and health policy scientist. Michael resides in Bedminster, New Jersey with his wife, Mary. On any given weekend, you may find them hiking, kayaking, rock climbing, or serving with their church community.

### **Melissa Rebovich**



Melissa (Missy) Rebovich is a third-year law student at Rutgers Law School — Camden, where she is a social justice scholar and serves as managing notes editor for the Rutgers Journal of Law and Public Policy. Before going to law school, Missy worked for ten years in communications and government affairs, most recently as director of government and public affairs at New Jersey Future, a land use policy and advocacy organization. While in law school, Missy worked at Eastern Environmental Law Center through the Maida Public Interest Fellowship Program and as a legal intern in Governor Phil Murphy’s counsel’s office. She holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Rider University. Missy lives in Bordentown, New Jersey with her dog, two cats, and fiancé.

She received the Governor’s Executive Award.

### **Kristin Schlotterbeck**



Kristin Schlotterbeck is a third-year dual degree student studying law at Rutgers Law School - Newark and public affairs and politics at Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy in New Brunswick. She is focused on societal changes that advance equity for women and girls, particularly changes that protect against violence. Kristin has served victims of violence since 2005—beginning by answering crisis lines, facilitating support groups, and providing hospital and campus-based advocacy. Over the past decade, Kristin built and managed a nonprofit violence prevention program, which provided educational programming regarding child sexual abuse and gender-based violence to K-12 students. Additionally, she created and conducted

training and technical assistance to service providers from various systems (housing, mental health, child welfare, etc.). During that timeframe, she also worked to improve services across systems by representing victims on countywide multidisciplinary groups including the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Committee, Sexual Assault Response Team, and Student Threat Assessment Team. In 2018, Kristin became interested in how communication campaigns can be used to create pro-social behavior change and, adding to her bachelor’s degrees in English and psychology, she earned a master’s degree in strategic communications from the University of Oregon. She is currently focused on how public and private systems can become more accessible, equitable, and trauma-informed. Most recently, she worked to ensure people in poverty have equal access to justice as an intern with New York Legal Assistance Group, and as a Deborah T. Poritz Fellow with Essex-Newark Legal Services. Someday, she hopes to combine her background in communications, public policy, and the law to advance legislative changes that uplift under-resourced communities. Kristin is honored to accept the Eagleton Fellowship Program’s Governor’s Executive Award and looks forward to building her political acumen.

### **Katharine Schumacher**



Katharine Schumacher is a third-year graduate student pursuing her master’s degree in landscape architecture at Rutgers – New Brunswick. She is currently a Geomatics Teaching Assistant for Intermediate and Introductory classes at the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS). She received her bachelor’s degree in geo-environmental studies from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. She has focused her career on understanding climate and environmental resource issues impacting our country by working with nonprofits and NGOs focused on sustainability. Katharine is co-chair of the Lawrence-Trenton League of Women Voters and has served on the State Board of Directors for the League of Women Voters

of New Jersey for several years. She is a New Jersey native, a committed community advocate, and a mother of three children who love to explore parks, playgrounds, and walk and bike frequently to school near their home in Mercer County. Her design and research focus are the implementation of safe and active inclusive projects that enhance our pedestrian walkways and will help meet New Jersey’s climate goals. Katharine is honored to receive the Governor’s

Executive Award and be a member of the Eagleton Fellowship cohort. She hopes to use her knowledge and skills from both Eagleton and SEBS to advance public policies and projects that yield a deeper connection to the natural world for our communities.

### Mayrose Wegmann



Iowa native Mayrose Wegmann is pursuing a master's degree in public affairs and politics at the Rutgers-New Brunswick Edward J. Bloustein School for Planning and Public Policy. Mayrose is a veteran campaign strategist and organizer in the American Labor Movement. Mayrose grew up in rural poverty with an incarcerated father, a single mother, and seven brothers and sisters. She benefited from social safety-net programs including food stamps, WIC, heating assistance, housing assistance, Medicaid, free school lunch, and Pell Grants. Her personal experience showed her that public programs can create the opportunity to overcome poverty. Mayrose attended the University of Iowa where she earned a bachelor's degree in political science focused on public policy and political communication. While at the University of Iowa, she served as vice president of the student body and president of the student senate. In these leadership roles, she became an advocate for college affordability where she contributed for *CNN*, *NPR*, *USA Today*, *Washington Post*, and *U.S. News and World Report*. Mayrose began her public service and politics career as an intern for U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and worked on the re-election campaigns for Senator Harkin and Governor Tom Vilsack (D-IA). Mayrose moved to Washington D.C. in 2004 to work at the National Education Association (NEA), the nation's largest labor union. In 2016, Mayrose served as a senior advisor to the Hillary Clinton for President campaign. In 2018, Mayrose moved to New Jersey where she currently serves as the Northwest Region Director for the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA). Mayrose is a member of the New Leaders Council/New Jersey Fellows Program and currently serves as statewide chapter director. Mayrose holds certificates from Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations, and the Midwest Academy. She received the Harold and Reba Martin Award. Mayrose lives in Montclair with her partner Conrad. In her spare time, Mayrose enjoys yoga, cooking, and exploring the world in search for the best beach.

### Jalen Williams



Jalen Williams is a third-year law student enrolled at Rutgers Law School - Newark. Originally hailing from Newark, Jalen's formative years in a military household cultivated an adaptable nature and a global perspective. He achieved *cum laude* distinction in his undergraduate studies at the University Honors College of Old Dominion University where he majored in political science. During this period, Jalen embarked on impactful internships. He contributed to the U.S. Embassy in London, engaging in a range of U.S. foreign policy issues and events, including the 2019 London Summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Additionally, he interned with Congressman Donald Payne, Jr. in his Newark home district. Before law school, Jalen joined the New Jersey National Guard, where he has subsequently commissioned as a Military Intelligence Officer. Amid his legal studies, he assumed the role of Director at the non-profit organization, The SGT Sam Nutter Organization Inc., which hosts annual 5K runs to raise funds for New Jersey Veterans facing traumatic hardships. Jalen's professional journey also features his tenure as a Judicial Intern at the United States Court of International Trade. Operating within a federal court with nationwide jurisdiction, Jalen adeptly conducted comprehensive legal research and analysis on international trade cases, spanning trade remedies, customs matters, and trade policy issues. Prior to this, he made a valuable contribution as an intern within the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General/Division of Civil Rights. Jalen is honored to be a recipient of the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award and is looking forward to completing his spring internship. He is confident this opportunity will equip him with invaluable skills to further his passion for advocating on behalf of underrepresented communities.

## Rachael Wolfram



A first-generation student, Rachael Wolfram is a third-year student at Rutgers Law School – Camden. Rachael graduated from the University of South Carolina in 2019, at the age of 19, with degrees in national security and social work and leadership distinction. While in South Carolina, Rachael completed a fellowship with the South Carolina Democratic party helping a Democratic State Senate candidate win in a historically Republican district. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Rachael was a south jersey EMT at night while working for a pharmaceutical company generating educational materials for the doctors, nurses, and pharmacists deeply involved in the race to generate an effective vaccine during the day. Rachael continues to work

as an EMT and interns for the Department of Justice Field Office in Philadelphia. Rachael is active with Girl Scouts as a Brownie Leader and Technology Chair for Moorestown Service Unit. During her time at Rutgers, Rachael proudly served as Rutgers Law’s first Immigrant Justice Fellow during the flagship year. In this role, she worked closely with Rutgers students on their various immigration matters, represented them at asylum hearings, and helped organize Rutgers Law’s first on-campus Naturalization Ceremony where more than two dozen new citizens from 18 countries took the United States Naturalization Oath of Allegiance. She has received scholarships from the New Jersey Women Lawyers Association (NJWLA) and the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey. Her NJWLA submission on gender inequality in promotion at private law firms was published in their 2023 Gala Journal. She received the Governor’s Executive Award. Upon graduation, Rachael plans to sit for the Pennsylvania and New Jersey State Bars and will serve as one of the Judicial Law Clerks to the Honorable Hany Mawla in the New Jersey Appellate Division for the 2024-2025 term.

## Ethan Yoo



Ethan Yoo is a second-year student in the Master of Information Program at the Rutgers – New Brunswick School of Communication and Information, where he is following the data science concentration in the Department of Library and Information Science. Ethan graduated from Swarthmore College as a first-generation college student and a special major in political science and educational studies. He has since earned a second bachelor's degree in computer science from Thomas Edison State University. Ethan is currently a second-year NJLEND Fellow at the Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities. He has also worked for Rutgers University Libraries as a Graduate Specialist and as a Research Assistant for both the Center for Research on ending

violence at the Rutgers School of Social Work, and his academic department. Ethan is deeply committed to advancing social justice and public service. Ethan served as an AmeriCorps VISTA member, conducting qualitative and quantitative data analysis to support several programs serving low-income households in New Jersey. During the summer of 2023, he interned with the Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, where his other experiences as a volunteer EMT and undergraduate student leader have proved useful. Given his long-standing research interests in disability, health equity, and social policy, Ethan plans to pursue a doctoral degree in sociology or public health before seeking a career in academic institutions, government agencies, or progressive think tanks. Originally from Scotch Plains, Ethan currently lives in Bridgewater Township. He received the Governor’s Executive Award.