



RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK
Eagleton Institute of Politics

CLASS OF 2026

EAGLETON GRADUATE FELLOWS

69th Cohort



Study politics

Inspire engagement

Improve democracy

EAGLETON GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Graduate Fellows Program at the Eagleton Institute of Politics has been a cornerstone of the Institute's commitment to advancing the understanding and practice of politics and public service since the Institute's founding in 1956. Over the years, the Fellowship Program has expanded and changed, but its vision, mission and values have remained constant. Today, this one-year, interdisciplinary certificate program is open to Rutgers graduate students from all campus locations. Students selected for this signature education program develop an advanced knowledge of government, American politics, policy, and advocacy and build professional skills and networks to then apply through their degree field of study.

The 2026 cohort includes master's, doctoral and advanced medical degree students from Rutgers Camden, Newark, New Brunswick, and Rutgers Biomedical Health Sciences/Robert Wood Johnson Medical School representing a variety of academic fields including accounting taxation, city and regional planning, criminal justice, economics, health behavior society and policy, law, medicine, political science, public administration, public health, public policy, social work, and toxicology.

The academic journey of Graduate Fellows begins with the "Perspectives in American Politics" course, which offers a deep dive into the intricacies of politics, policy, and government. This foundational course is complemented by hands-on experience through advanced government internships each spring. Fellows gain invaluable practical experience through placements in the New Jersey Legislature, Office of the Governor, various state executive agencies and departments, as well as local, county, regional, and federal offices.

Monthly program sessions and experiential education trips to the state houses in New Jersey and Maryland with Eagleton Science Fellows further enhance the Fellows' learning by expanding on the knowledge and professional skills acquired in the course, while also facilitating valuable networking opportunities.

To date, the program boasts over 1,200 alumni who have leveraged their sophisticated understanding of politics and government to pursue careers in public service, advocacy, and beyond, across diverse sectors including public, corporate, and non-profit arenas.

The 2026 cohort marks the 69th class of Eagleton Fellows, continuing the tradition of excellence and dedication that defines the program. Graduate Fellows benefit from direct financial support of stipends and tuition credits from four awards: the Harold and Reba Martin, Henry J. Raimondo Legislative, Governor's Executive, and Eagleton Alumni awards with additional support from the Rutgers Democracy Lab. For more information on the program and its offerings, please visit eagleton.rutgers.edu/grad-fellowships.

CLASS OF 2026 EAGLETON GRADUATE FELLOWS

JESSICA ANDERSEN



Jessica Andersen is a **dual M.D. and Ph.D. student at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and is a third-year Ph.D. student in the School of Public Health (SPH) at Rutgers Health**. She serves as an Instructor in the SPH Department of Health Behavior, Society, and Policy. Jessica's research interests focus on the financial burden of healthcare in the United States and policy areas that directly impact healthcare quality, accessibility, coverage, and affordability. Her dissertation investigates whether commercial and organizational factors might contribute to the financial burden of nursing home stays at the end-of-life. At SPH Jessica was published in *Health Affairs Forefront*, writing about how private capital and financialization of the US healthcare delivery sector are likely to impact health disparities. During her years in medical school, she was also a co-founder and leader of several policy-relevant student groups, including Medical Students for Choice and White Coats for Black Lives. Jessica has a bachelor's degree in engineering in acoustic engineering and music with a minor in mathematics from the University of Hartford in Connecticut. She resides in Highland Park, New Jersey. Her long-term professional goal is to become a physician-advocate working to use policy to alleviate the financial burden of medical care and to end medical debt and its harmful impact on population health. Jessica is a **Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award** recipient who will be interning in the Office of Legislative Services this spring.

MOLLY BASDEO MOUNTJOY



Molly Basdeo Mountjoy (she/her) is a **Ph.D. candidate in planning and public policy at the Bloustein School of Planning and Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick**. Her research interests include racial justice, childhood poverty, gender equity, educational equity, U.S. rural student populations, children of immigrant experiences, and curriculum design and instruction. Molly's dissertation focuses on school segregation and integration policies in New Jersey, examined through the perspectives of Black and Latino parents and guardians. At Bloustein, she teaches a leadership seminar, serves on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee, and was a Research Assistant for the New Jersey State Policy Lab. She is also a Graduate Fellow for the New Jersey-Philadelphia Scholars Strategy Network Chapter. Molly is a member of multiple state education advocacy groups and task forces that focus on education equity. Before her doctoral studies, Molly held professional roles at various higher education institutions focusing on teaching, facilitation, curriculum development, assessing student learning, advancing equity and inclusion, mentoring students, managing program budgets, and large-scale event planning. Molly earned her master's degree in higher education administration from the University of South Carolina and a bachelor's in middle grades education with honors from North Carolina State University. Originally from Lexington, North Carolina, she currently resides in Collingswood, New Jersey, with her husband, daughter, and pup. She enjoys spending time with her family, baking, cooking (and eating) Guyanese food, reading, photography, cycling, and practicing and teaching yoga. She is excited to continue serving New Jersey through the **Governor's Executive Award**.

RYAN BROWN



Ryan Brown is a **fourth-year Ph.D. student in the School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers–Newark**. His research focuses on policing, legal strategy, constitutional studies, and institutional accountability. A resident of Trenton, New Jersey, Ryan immigrated to the United States from Jamaica in 2001. His academic work is informed by a decade of collective service in law enforcement, the courts, and the military, where he served as a police officer and dispatcher, court officer, and member of the U.S. armed forces. At Rutgers, Ryan serves as Co-Chair of the Research and Development Committee on the Student Government Association in the School of Criminal Justice. He also teaches undergraduate courses on policing, crime prevention, and community justice. His dissertation examines the procedural role of objections in criminal trials and their influence on appellate outcomes. In addition to his academic work, Ryan has contributed to several research initiatives, including his role at the Center for Guaranteed Income at the University of Pennsylvania. His empirical research also includes a multi-year analysis of police complaint and disciplinary data across New Jersey. Last summer, Ryan travelled to the University of Oxford to join the Quill Project, contributing to a collaborative effort to explore contemporary constitutional questions through historical and legal analysis. He also authors a public-facing blog that connects philosophy, law, and governance to promote reflective and socially engaged scholarship. Ryan holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Jersey City University and a master's in criminal justice from Rutgers. He received the **Harold and Reba Martin Award** and is committed to bridging the gap that divides the lived experience, research, and policy to support transparent, just, and inclusive public institutions.

DASHAY CARTER



Dashay Carter is a proud Newark native, United States Army veteran, and first-generation college graduate. She earned her bachelor's degree from Emory University and a Master of Public Administration degree at Rutgers–Newark. She is currently a **fourth-year evening J.D. student at Rutgers Law School–Newark**, where she is actively involved in the Minority Student Program and has served three consecutive terms on the Student Bar Association. Dashay is dedicated to public service, education, and community empowerment. In 2014, she was elected to the Newark Board of Education, where she served for three years, chaired several key committees, and played a pivotal role in the return of local control to the school district. She also served as Vice Chair of the Board of Marion P. Thomas Charter School. For the past decade, Dashay has worked at the Newark Housing Authority, where she currently serves as Chief of Human Resources. In addition to her professional and civic roles, Dashay is a committed mentor through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties. She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. She is also an alumna of North Star Academy in Newark, a foundation that shaped her passion for education equity and youth leadership. Dashay's legal and political interests converge at the intersection of employment law, family law, and public policy. Dashay received the **Governor's Executive Award**. She is driven by a mission to empower underserved communities by bridging

law, politics, and community organizing. Her career goal is to continue building pathways that allow others not only to succeed but to lead.

JOHN DEMARIA



John (JC) DeMaria, from South Brunswick, New Jersey, is a **third-year J.D. student at Rutgers Law School-Newark**. He attended Montclair State University where he graduated with a bachelor's degree, *magna cum laude*, in political science and a minor in pre-law. He currently serves as Chair of the Public Interest Law Student Association of Rutgers Law Newark which supports students in pursuing public interest work by raising money to fund summer stipends. Allowing students to help their communities without financial hardship is his largest source of pride. Previously, JC interned with U.S. Senator Cory Booker and Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman. Most recently, he has worked with the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania, the New Jersey Law Revision Commission and the New Jersey Attorney General's Office - Division on Civil Rights. JC hopes to one day work in a legislative policy position advancing equity and justice for those in New Jersey and beyond. Outside of the law, JC is a classically trained singer and an improv comedian who can be found performing in community theaters across New Jersey. He can also be spotted selling skincare and makeup as a Prestige Beauty Advisor at Ulta Beauty. JC is honored to receive the **Henry J. Raimondo Award** and is looking forward to interning with the New Jersey Assembly Majority Office in the spring.

ALAINA DIXON



Alaina Colleen Dixon (she/her) is a **second-year master's of public policy student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick**. She is interested in social and health policy and specifically how they impact under-resourced workforces. While at Rutgers, she has worked as a research assistant for faculty at the School of Management and Labor Relations where she learned about employee ownership models and their potential to address wage and power imbalances in the workplace. Alaina is currently a research assistant at the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development. She previously interned at the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs on a research project through the Rutgers Law School-Newark. Alaina grew up in Texas and graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science from Southwestern University *summa cum laude* Phi Beta Kappa. At Southwestern, she worked as a research assistant on perceptions of civility and protest and co-presented findings in Chicago at the American Midwest Political Science Association conference. She participated in the Texas Civic Ambassadors program during which she had the chance to meet with students from across the state and run voter engagement efforts on her college campus. Additionally, she worked as a full-time staff member for Representative Venton Jones in the Texas House of Representatives. Alaina is honored to be a recipient of the **Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award** with a placement at the New Jersey Office of Legislative Services. Her career goal is to write policy recommendations that effectively address the most pressing issues in our society. She is particularly passionate about health, labor, and social policy, and hopes to apply her skills local, state, or federal levels.

MICHAEL EIBLE



Michael A. Eible III is a **third-year J.D. student at Rutgers Law School-Camden**. Originally from Whitehall, Pennsylvania, he currently lives in Talleyville, Delaware and is a first-generation college graduate. Michael received his bachelor's degree in business administration in risk management and insurance from Temple University in Philadelphia. He worked for five years in the health insurance industry as a consultant and contract negotiator prior to pursuing his J.D. During his time in law school, Michael has interned for the Hon. Rukhsanah L. Singh at the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. This past summer he was a Summer Associate for the U.S. Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C. At Rutgers Law School, Michael is a Commentaries Editor for *Rutgers Law Review*, an Event Coordinator for the American Constitution Society, and a finalist for Hunter Moot Court. During the moot court competition, he had the opportunity to argue in front of Justices from the Supreme Court of New Jersey. He is passionate about advancing workers' rights, organized labor, healthcare access, and economic equality. After graduating, Michael plans to dedicate his career to public service at the state and federal levels. Michael received the **Governor's Executive Award** and is excited to be a part of this year's cohort.

EMILY EVERS



Emily Evers, a proud New Jersey native from Parsippany, is a **third-year dual degree master's student in public policy and city and regional planning at the Edward J Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick**. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in political science and sociology from The College of New Jersey, Emily worked with several food security-focused nonprofit organizations on community-driven projects across northern New Jersey. During her time as a graduate student, Emily has interned with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, where she helped shape FEED NJ, a grant program supporting projects that strengthen food access and food security in New Jersey's most acute food desert communities. She also interned in the Governor's Policy Office, where she contributed to impactful projects and supported legislation on transportation, education, affordable housing, and Governor Murphy's historic clemency initiative. This summer, she interned with the Climate Change Resource Center, where she helped NJ municipalities identify their greatest climate risks through first-in-the-nation Climate Change Related Hazard Vulnerability Assessment plans, and with Strategic Communities, where she secured over \$1 million in grant funding for nonprofits implementing neighborhood revitalization initiatives. Emily was honored to receive the Christiana R. Foglio Endowed Annual Graduate Fellowship in Planning and the Progress of Ideas Scholarship. Emily is thrilled to serve New Jersey through the **Governor's Executive Award**. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends, trying new restaurants, and working towards her annual Goodreads reading goal.

RHODE-TAINA GARDERE



Rhode Gardere is a first-generation Haitian-American student from Union, New Jersey. She is currently pursuing a **master's degree in social work specializing in management and policy at the School of Social Work, Rutgers-New Brunswick**. Rhode recently graduated from Rutgers with a dual bachelor's degree in social work and sociology. During her time as an undergraduate student she interned at Coming Home of Middlesex County, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending homelessness, where she provided case management, recorded data surrounding homelessness, and visited clients. She also interned at Eagleton's Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers Career Exploration and Success Office, and a local law firm. Her leadership on campus includes being a First Year Interest Group peer instructor, Rutgers Chaarg Club secretary, resident assistant, and Paul Robeson Success Institute mentor at Rutgers-New Brunswick. She has an interest in macro social work with hopes of impacting policy surrounding homelessness and housing. She also has an interest in law and hopes to protect client and tenant rights against illegal practices. Rhode is proud to be part of the Graduate Fellowship cohort as a **Governor's Executive Award** recipient and knows the experience will equip her to be a leader and change maker in society. Outside of her career interests, she is a baker, lover of Disney musicals, and nature.

KRISTINA GOSHORN



Kristina Goshorn is a **third-year J.D. student at Rutgers Law School-Camden**. Kristina grew up in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, although she was born on a military base in Okinawa, Japan and lived in California during her early childhood. She earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish and international relations and graduated *magna cum laude* from Albright College. Among other activities, Kristina participated in an independent honors research project about Chile's political history and later extended her research during her study abroad semester in Santiago, Chile where she also volunteered with the Ministry of Education of Chile as an English Teacher's Assistant in underprivileged schools. After college, Kristina completed two congressional summer internships for U.S. Senator Bob Casey Jr. and U.S. Representative Dina Titus. She also worked as a Field Organizer in Pittsburgh during the 2018 midterm elections. Kristina worked as an immigration paralegal for four years before law school. At Rutgers Law School, she is a Social Justice Scholar and a member of both the *Journal of Law and Public Policy* and APALSA. Kristina has interned in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and worked as a Summer Associate at Archer and Greiner, P.C. Kristina has also served as an immigration law clerk, as well as a Fellow with Rutgers Law School's Center for Immigration Justice. She currently lives in South Philadelphia and enjoys cooking, running, and bouldering. Kristina is honored to receive the **Harold and Reba Martin Award**. Her professional aspirations include work in public policy or public service, as counsel to state or federal legislative committees.

HALLEIGH JOHNSTON



Halleigh Johnston is a **second-year master's student in city and regional planning at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick**. Born and raised in Bradenton, Florida, she spent much of her youth outdoors running down neighborhood streets with her dad and biking with her brothers. Inspired by her mom's health journey, Halleigh pursued a bachelor's in public health and chemistry at the University of South Florida (USF). At USF, she became more involved in local politics by interning with the Tampa City Council and the Florida State House of Representatives.

While in Tampa, she was inspired by two urban planners whose work showed her the powerful role planning can play in shaping public health. At Rutgers, Halleigh serves as the vice president of urban planning for the Bloustein Graduate Student Association. She is currently interning for Hudson County, where she contributes to advancing the County's Vision Zero goal to eliminate all traffic fatalities and serious injuries through proactive, rather than reactive, planning and design. In her free time, she likes to go to the gym, FaceTime with her girlfriend, cheer for the Buccaneers, and attend Toastmasters meetings. Halleigh is honored to receive the **Governor's Executive Award** and participate as an Eagleton Fellow. After graduation, Halleigh looks forward to continuing her work as an urban planner in New Jersey, working toward the much-needed change in our communities to make them safer and healthier places to live.

ALYSSAJUENKE



Alyssa Juenke (she/her), originally from Delano, Minnesota, is pursuing a **Ph.D. in toxicology at the School of Graduate Studies at Rutgers-New Brunswick, as well as a certificate in epidemiology methods from the School of Public Health at Rutgers Health**. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Madison with a bachelor's degree in pharmacology/toxicology and microbiology. Alyssa studies the effects of a common food contaminant, zearalenone (ZEN), on reproduction, pregnancy, and child development in the Maternal Child Environmental Health lab with Dr. Emily Barrett. Alongside her

own research, she is passionate about increasing the reach and accessibility of science. She was instrumental in the planning and development of a U.S. Sister Project to the international Isala-sister consortium, a citizen science project aimed at furthering our understanding of the vaginal microbiome. She is also the Social Media Manager for the state-funded New Jersey Kids Study and the Science Policy and Advocacy at Rutgers student organization. In addition, she serves as a coordinator for the Toxicology, Health, and Environmental Disease summer high school summer program hosted by Rutgers, where she leads lectures and hands-on lab experiences on biomedical, epidemiological, and environmental health topics. After graduation, Alyssa hopes to advocate for evidence-based science policy that improves human and environmental health. She is honored to receive the **Henry J. Raimondo Award** and looks forward to working with the New Jersey Office of Legislative Services.

AVA KWAN



Ava Kwan, raised in Madison, New Jersey, is a **second-year graduate student pursuing a master's degree in social work at the School of Social Work, Rutgers-New Brunswick**. Ava is currently interning on Jack Ciattarelli for Governor campaign and conducting voter outreach across multiple counties in New Jersey. Ava serves as the Union County Young Republican Chairwoman, working to engage young voters and catalyze their involvement in local politics. Ava is currently a Client Services Coordinator with Inspire Women's Center, a non-profit organization specializing in pregnancy support services. During her first-year social work practicum, Ava worked with Plainfield School District, providing clinical support to adolescents through individual counseling and group therapy. Ava identified student body social needs, collaborated with faculty, and coordinated initiatives and events that helped foster a safer, more supportive school environment. Ava graduated *cum laude* from New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) in 2024 with a bachelor's degree in cyberpsychology. During her undergraduate studies, she assisted in cognitive psychology research at NJIT's Visual Perception Lab, exploring peripheral image retention using eye-tracking technology. Ava is a proud alumna of Delta Phi Epsilon, where she served as academic chair. Ava is a recipient of the **Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award** and looks forward to interning at the New Jersey Senate Republican Office this spring. She hopes to apply her knowledge of sociocultural psychology and moral cognition to drive public policy capable of responding to a rapidly shifting technological landscape. After graduation, she hopes to work on policy reform, analysis, and research, to improve the lives of everyday citizens, and to ensure the government is seen as a highly respected and trusted institution among her generation.

MICHELE MCDERMOTT



Michele McDermott is pursuing a **master's degree in public health concentrating on population aging in the School of Public Health at Rutgers Health**. She is the eldest daughter of Haitian immigrants, born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Michele is a board-certified family nurse practitioner at Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health, specializing in post-acute care and chronic disease management. With extensive experience in treating conditions such as Huntington's disease, HIV, dementia, and substance use disorders, she is dedicated to improving patient outcomes through comprehensive care. Dr. McDermott is passionate about the aging population, mental health, and chronic disease management. Her research contributions include systematic reviews on continuity of care, as well as publications on occupational lung disease and sarcoidosis. Michele received the Jennifer Elliott Population Aging Scholarship. She is a respected member of several national professional organizations, including the American Nurses Credentialing Center, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, and the New York Nurses Association. Michele holds a doctoral degree in nursing practice and a master's in nursing from Pace University-Manhattan Campus, along with a bachelor's degree in nursing and biology from Long Island University-Brooklyn Campus. Currently, she resides in West Orange, New Jersey, with her two young adult sons, Matthew and Nathaniel. Michele is honored to receive the **Harold and Reba Martin Award**, and she believes that participating in the Eagleton

Institute of Politics Class of 2026 will deepen her passion for healthcare and public policy, particularly in addressing the unique needs of older adults in New Jersey.

CAROLINA MONTES



Carolina Montes, a Morris Plains native, is a **Master of Public Administration student at the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers-Newark**. She currently serves as a Senior Aide on the Intergovernmental Affairs team for New Jersey Governor Philip D. Murphy, where she manages relationships with congressional, county, and local elected officials across six major counties. Previously, Carolina worked for a U.S. Senator focusing on constituent casework and outreach, with youth, European diaspora groups, and Latino and Spanish-speaking communities. She earned her bachelor's degree in political science and Latino & Caribbean Studies from Rutgers-New Brunswick in 2021. As an undergraduate, she interned on the Latinos in New Jersey Oral History Project, gathering and preserving stories from Latinos across the state. Most recently, Carolina graduated as a fellow of the New Jersey Leadership Collective, a leadership program centered on advancing social, economic, and racial justice through innovative public policy and community-driven solutions. She also serves as treasurer for the Public Administration Graduate Association. Guided by a passion for public service, Carolina is working to build the skills and perspective needed to turn policy into progress. She is focused on using her personal, professional and academic experiences to help close gaps in access, opportunity, and support for communities too often left behind. She is honored to be a recipient of the **Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award** with a placement at the New Jersey Assembly Majority Office. In her free time, Carolina enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with her family and her dog, Kihra.

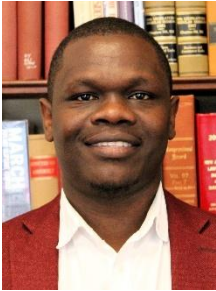
HELEN MOREJON ALVAREZ



Helen Morejon was born and raised in Cuba before immigrating to the United States twelve years ago. She is a **third-year J.D. student at Rutgers Law School-Newark**. She earned her bachelor's in applied physiology and kinesiology from the University of Florida. Driven by a deep interest in the intersection of science, healthcare, and law, Helen interned at Celldex Therapeutics, where she conducted research on Freedom to Operate and Healthcare Compliance Policy. She was also a law clerk at The Kim Law Firm. Last winter, she traveled to the U.S.–Mexico border in El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, with the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP), examining the effects of climate change-induced migration on displaced communities. Continuing her commitment to public interest work, she contributed to IRAP's Special Immigrant Visa Project during the spring semester. Currently, Helen serves as a Research Assistant, investigating how municipalities across the U.S. are implementing the Supreme Court's decision in *Padilla v. Kentucky*. She is also an Associate Editor for *Rutgers Computer and Technology Law Journal*. Elected by her peers for a second term, she proudly serves as a Student Bar Association Representative for the Student Bar Association, Vice-Chair of the Moot Court Board, and the MetroLALSA Representative for the Association of Latin American Law Students. She also spearheaded the Minority Student Program Legacy Project at the law school. Helen received the **Governor's Executive Award**. After graduation she hopes

to influence legislative and administrative decisions that impact immigration, regulatory law, and access to justice.

KELLINE MUO



Kelline Muo is from Migori, Kenya, and is pursuing a **master's degree in public policy at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick**. He is passionate about leveraging evidence-based insights to shape sustainable and equitable food systems. Kelline holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and rural development from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Nairobi. Last summer, he worked as a Research Assistant at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, analyzing data for the New Jersey Organic and Regenerative Farming

Board and supporting policy reporting for state and university stakeholders. Previously, he worked with Kenya's Ministry of Agriculture, where he led monitoring and evaluation for food systems projects and contributed to regulatory reform and public-private partnerships. Kelline brings expertise in agricultural economics, food systems resilience, and policy research. He is also skilled in data analysis, economic modeling, and regulatory assessment and has experience in agricultural market research and business environment evaluation. Kelline received the **Governor's Executive Award** for his Eagleton Graduate Fellowship. His career interests include sustainable agriculture, food systems resilience, and international development. In his free time, he enjoys playing soccer, hiking, and watching documentary films.

JAKE PAPA



Jake Papa is a **master's student in public policy** from Hamilton, New Jersey, **concentrating in environmental policy and sustainability at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers-New Brunswick**. He received a bachelor's degree in political science and sociology from Rutgers in 2024. Jake is a researcher on the New Jersey Ballot Project at the Rutgers Law School-Newark where he has collected thousands of ballots from historical and current elections statewide to create a publicly available database for New Jersey's ballot design history. During the summer of 2025, Jake interned with

the Mercer County Planning Department, where he attended meetings with the County Executive and supported local planning and sustainability initiatives, while also mentoring interns from the high school cohort. He also worked as a legislative aide with the Center for Urban Policy Research (CUPR), where he tracks New Jersey Board of Public Utilities dockets, monitors energy and sustainability legislation, and prepares policy summaries for research staff. Jake was a legislative intern for the Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo's office. His prior experience includes managing outreach and public information projects related to sustainable development, including proposing a county-wide sustainability newsletter and green purchasing policy. His interests lie in public sector climate action, decarbonization policy, and sustainable planning. Jake received the **Governor's Executive Award**. After graduation he plans to work at the intersection of environmental policy and community resilience.

FREYJA QUINN



Freyja Quinn, from Hightstown, New Jersey, is a **second-year master's of public policy student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick**. She recently received her bachelor's degree in public policy and political science from Rutgers-New Brunswick, where she is also a member of the Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Sigma Alpha honor societies. As an undergraduate student, Freyja interned with the Office of then-Congressman Andy Kim through the Rutgers Scarlet Service Internship (RSSI) program, helping with constituent services. She also was selected for the Rutgers Scarlet Service in Washington D.C. program, where she interned with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), helping with the policy department in the Science Mission Directorate. As an undergraduate student, Freyja was involved in the Eagleton Institute of Politics as a programmatic intern for the Center for Youth Political Participation, helping to promote events and increase engagement. She was also a contributing writer for the Eagleton Political Journal. Most recently, she interned with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority in the Economic Security section, supporting food security and childcare initiatives. Freyja received the **Governor's Executive Award**. She is excited and honored to be part of this year's cohort and is eager to learn and grow from the program. After graduation she plans to pursue a career in policy and promote civic engagement beyond Rutgers.

ASHLEY ROWLEY



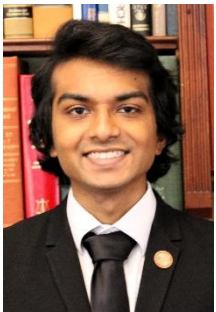
Ashley Rowley is a **first-year master's of city and regional planning student with a concentration in transportation planning at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick**. Born in Richland, Washington, she grew up in Daytona Beach, Florida. She cares deeply about creating more affordable and accessible transportation systems, supporting renewable energy, and designing communities that promote safety, walkability, and long-term sustainability. She holds a bachelor's degree in public administration and urban and regional planning with a certificate in geographic information systems from the University of Central Florida. Ashley works as a Planning Technician at ESA Solar, a solar energy company based in Orlando, Florida, where she supports solar and battery storage projects across the United States, coordinating with local governments, managing permitting timelines, and engaging with stakeholders throughout the development process. She previously interned with Orange County Utilities in the Water Conservation Department. She also received the Hispanic Heritage Scholarship and participated in the Florida's Bright Futures program. Outside of work, Ashley holds a Part 107 license to fly drones commercially and enjoy using drone technology in both planning and recreationally. In her free time, she enjoys reading, flying drones, and playing video games. She is honored to receive the **Harold and Reba Martin Award**. After graduation, she hopes to continue working in either renewable energy or public transit planning, as both play a key role in building a more sustainable and equitable future.

CHRISTOPHER SAINT JEAN



Christopher Saint Jean is a **Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science at the School of Graduate Studies at Rutgers-New Brunswick**. With research interests in Black politics, and specifically the intersections of social class identity, political behavior, and public opinion among Black Americans, he aims to develop a research approach that best serves the most marginalized. Using skills gained during his graduate studies, Christopher has contributed to research and community endeavors outside Rutgers, including working at a public opinion firm called EVITARUS, and serving as a secretary for the Black African American Public Opinion Research (BAAPOR) steering committee. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice at the City University of New York and a master's degree in political science from Rutgers. Previously, Christopher served as a Constituent Service Liaison in the Office of Council Member Farrah Louis of Brooklyn, New York. He was also a Special Projects Assistant for the Urban Male Initiative in New York. Christopher is deeply honored to be a member of the Eagleton Fellowship and to receive the **Harold and Reba Martin Award**. He plans to use his experience at Eagleton University to better understand governance while integrating his Rutgers experience to create a comprehensive approach to substantive advocacy. He aims to create research that is tailored to have practical uses for lawmakers and advocates to utilize to advance the interests of marginalized groups, particularly Black Americans.

KIRAN SUBRAMANIAN



Kiran Subramanian is a **first-year student at the Rutgers Business School-Newark pursuing a master's degree in accountancy taxation**. Kiran graduated *summa cum laude* and phi beta kappa distinctions from Rutgers New Brunswick with a bachelor's degree in economics and political science. During his undergraduate studies, he was awarded the Gerald E. and Doris I. Duguay Endowed Memorial Award, as well as the Milton Friedman Distinguished Scholars award for outstanding undergraduate students. Kiran has had internships in many different organizations, ranging from the U.S. Government Accountability Office/Office of General Counsel as part of the inaugural cohort of the Rutgers Scarlet Service in Washington D.C. program to the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression as a campus scholar. Kiran has also completed a Research Assistant position for R Street Institute in Washington D.C. via the Koch Internship Program where he focused on finance, insurance, and trade policy. Outside of internships and the classroom, he served as the opinions editor of *The Daily Targum*, vice-president of the Rutgers Debate Union and Rutgers University Moot Court Association as well as the editor-in-chief of *The Medium* and the Rutgers Economics Society. Kiran is a proud alum of the Eagleton Undergraduate Associates program and received this year's **Eagleton Alumni Award** for the Eagleton Graduate Fellowship cohort. He hopes to go to law school after completing his master's degree and pursue a legal degree in taxation. In his free time, you can find him reading, writing, running, and keeping up his 900-day Duolingo streak.

TYLER SWARTZ



Tyler Swartz is a **third-year J.D. student at Rutgers Law School-Camden**. He was born and raised in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and earned a bachelor's degree in political science from The College of New Jersey. During college, Tyler explored his interest in politics and policy by interning for the Princeton Public Affairs Group, and the New Jersey Business and Industry Association. Through these experiences, Tyler was able to witness firsthand the importance of effective advocacy and deepen his understanding of different interest groups in New Jersey. At Rutgers Law School, Tyler is an Executive Editor of the *Rutgers University Law Review*, a board member for the Hunter Moot Court Appellate Advocacy Competition, and a research assistant. He has also served as a Judicial Intern for both the Honorable Gerald J. Pappert of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the Honorable John Jay Hoffman of the New Jersey Supreme Court. He is also a Judicial Intern for the Honorable Jane R. Roth of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Tyler worked as a Summer Associate at Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti LLP, supporting the firm's Qui Tam & False Claims Act, White Collar Litigation, and Labor and Employment groups. In his free time, he is a volunteer firefighter for the Beverly Fire Department. Tyler was honored to receive the **Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award** and will complete a spring internship at the New Jersey Office of Legislative Services. Upon graduation, he will be clerking for the Honorable Greta Gooden Brown of the New Jersey Appellate Division.

LULJETA SYLAJ



Luljeta Sylaj is a dedicated public servant and current resident of Ramsey, New Jersey. She is pursuing an **Executive Masters of Public Administration degree with a concentration in public affairs and public administration at the School of Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers-Newark**. Originally from Albania, Luljeta immigrated to the United States at the age of 20, bringing with her a strong commitment to education, public service, and community involvement. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Luigj Gurakuqi, and earned a second bachelor's degree in criminal justice and pre-law from the College of Saint Elizabeth *summa cum laude*. During her academic journey, Luljeta interned with the Florham Park Police Department. She currently works at the Housing Authority of Bergen County, helping residents secure affordable housing and working closely with landlords to meet the needs of low-income families. Last year, Luljeta took on the role of Executive Assistant and Office Manager at the Division of Child Care Resources where she supports families in accessing quality childcare services and helps ensure safe, nurturing learning environments for children. She has a deep passion for public service and a strong desire to make a positive impact in her community. Outside of her professional life, Luljeta is a proud wife and mother of three including her son who currently serves in the U.S. Air Force. She is a proud recipient of the **Governor's Executive Award**, a distinction that honors her leadership and ongoing commitment to public service. After graduation she hopes to shape and implement policies that promote equity, strengthen communities, and empower individuals to thrive as a public service leader.

LARRY TRAYLOR



Larry Traylor is a proud Trenton, New Jersey native who currently serves as the youngest member of the Trenton Board of Education. He is a **master's of public policy student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick**. Larry holds a bachelor's degree in political science and Africana Studies from Rutgers-New Brunswick. Larry's career is rooted in public service, compliance, and political organizing. He currently serves as a Confidential Aide to Mercer County Commissioner Samuel T. Frisby. Larry has gained extensive campaign experience across New Jersey, contributing to key races including Governor Phil Murphy's 2021 re-election, A'Dorian Murray Thomas's 2023 County Commissioner campaign, and Dan Benson's successful run for Mercer County Executive. Beyond the campaign trail, he is deeply engaged in civic and political leadership, serving as Treasurer of the Mercer County Young Democrats, LGBTQ Co-Chair for the New Jersey Young Democrats, and holding leadership roles within the New Jersey State Conference of the NAACP. Larry has been a fellow for the Cap and Skull Senior Honor Society and New Leaders Council-New Jersey. He also was a Research Assistant for the Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research. Through these experiences, Larry continues to champion equity, civic engagement, and the development of the next generation of leaders across the state. Larry received the **Governor's Executive Award** for the Eagleton Graduate Fellowship cohort.

PATRICK WALSH



Pat Walsh is a policy analyst pursuing a **J.D. degree at Rutgers Law School-Newark** while serving as an Associate Fiscal Analyst at the New Jersey Office of Legislative Services. Patrick brings a unique blend of legislative expertise, healthcare administration knowledge, and community leadership to his work in government. He holds a master's degree in public policy and health administration *magna cum laude* and a bachelor's degree in planning and public policy and political science from Rutgers University. His academic excellence was recognized through his selection as a Big Ten Distinguished Scholar Athlete and membership in multiple honor societies. Professionally, Patrick provides support to both houses of the New Jersey Legislature, staffing the Assembly Appropriations and Budget Committees. His experience spans policy development, budget analysis, and legislative drafting, with expertise in revenue and appropriations matters. Previously, he contributed to federal policy research as a Policy Analyst Intern at the U.S. Government Accountability Office, co-authoring reports on veterans' disability claims. Patrick served as the youngest elected Board of Education President in South Amboy history. A former Division I student-athlete, Patrick served as team captain for Rutgers Cross Country and Track and Field Team and was recognized for his community service contributions. He founded the annual South Amboy Alumni Panel, now in its seventh year, connecting current students with successful graduates across various career paths. Patrick is honored to be a recipient of the **Harold and Reba Martin Award** through the Eagleton Graduate Fellowship Program and looks forward to expanding his career at the intersection of law, policy, and government.

STUART WOODY



Gill Woody (he/him) hails from Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and he is a **third-year Ph.D. student pursuing a degree in economics through the Rutgers-New Brunswick School of Graduate Studies**. However, his familiarity with Rutgers goes beyond the past two years, as he completed his bachelor of arts, *summa cum laude*, in economics and history, with a minor in French, while studying in New Brunswick. He was also a member of the Phi Alpha Theta and currently holds an Excellence Fellowship in the economics department. Although a newcomer to the political sphere, Gill has worked previously as a research intern for the Middlesex County Division of History and Historic Preservation, cataloging public records and developing exhibit frameworks. So far in his current research, he is passionate about public economics and economic history, looking to find causal economic evidence for successful historical policies to make informed recommendations to modern lawmakers. At Rutgers he was President of the Youth Empowerment Club and is currently a Teaching Assistant Project Coordinator. Outside the classroom, Gill often finds himself in the kitchen trying out new recipes, especially when it comes to baking. He also loves to dance and has been involved with the Rutgers K-pop dance club for the last six years. He is grateful to receive the **Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award** and is looking forward to spending his spring as an intern with the New Jersey Senate Majority Office.