

DETROIT

InnovateGov

**MSU
IN DETROIT**

**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**



Department of Political Science
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

**COLLEGE OF
SOCIAL SCIENCE**



OUR SCIENCE **TRANSFORMS THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE**
AND INSPIRES LEADERS

THE CHALLENGE

In 2013, the City of Detroit became the largest US city ever to declare municipal bankruptcy.

Due to population loss and declining resources, the City of Detroit substantially reduced its local government workforce. These cuts resulted in severe erosion of basic public services that Detroit residents rely on for their daily lives - drinking water, policing, streetlights, and parks. Michigan State University social scientists have been studying the loss of local government capacity in the City of Detroit.

OUR COMMITMENT

MSU is partnering with Detroit's residents and civic institutions to address these challenges. InnovateGov connects some of MSU's most talented, diverse, and motivated students with these partners. Students are placed in local governments, community organizations, and businesses. There, they have the real opportunity to contribute to Detroit's growth, while also building professional skills and learning about the importance of civic engagement.

IMPACT

Since 2015, over 165 InnovateGov fellows from multiple colleges and majors have worked with leaders in over 40 Detroit civic organizations to tackle high-impact projects that touch every neighborhood in the city.

44+

CIVIC &
GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS



165+

MSU
STUDENTS

INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT

We recruit and support *doers* - students who will thrive outside the traditional classroom environment and be extremely effective in their jobs. We prioritize diversity, inclusivity, and the recruitment and financial support of MSU Detroiters into InnovateGov.

56%

UNDERREPRESENTED
RACIAL & ETHNIC
MINORITY GROUPS

67%

FROM DETROIT
METRO

40%

FROM DETROIT
CITY LIMITS

22

DIFFERENT
MAJORS

COMMUNITY IMPACT

SAVED 1000 FROM HOME FORECLOSURE

MSU students devised a process to assist over 1000 Wayne County residents in danger of home foreclosure. The students successfully arranged payment plans to cancel the foreclosure process.

DEVELOPED STRATEGIES TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN TEACHERS

MSU students presented strategies to the Detroit Public Schools Superintendent to attract and retain teaching talent.

IMPROVED THE 2020 CENSUS PROCESS

MSU students worked to prepare strategies for the 2020 census with Detroit's Department of Neighborhoods, ensuring that the City of Detroit is properly represented.

STRENGTHENED BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

MSU students launched an online system to connect businesses through the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation.

ERICA RALEIGH

Director of Data Driven Detroit

This program is wildly valuable, not only to MSU and its students, but also to the organizations in which the students are placed. For the students, they tackle real-world policy issues on the ground. For the participating organizations, hosting students creates an opportunity to see old problems from a new perspective and brings additional capacity to important projects.





TALENT INVESTMENT

After completing the InnovateGov program, more than 20 students have accepted full-time positions in civic institutions throughout the City of Detroit, including the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, the City of Detroit Health Department, Income Tax Department, Build Institute of Detroit, and others. Many more students go on to work in the city after graduating from MSU.

20+ 
**STUDENTS ACCEPTED
FULL-TIME POSITIONS**

 70%
**PLAN TO RETURN
TO DETROIT AFTER
GRADUATION
TO WORK**

STUDENT PROFILES

KAYLA LEMUS

WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE

“Detroit is my home. I get to get experience in my home city. I've learned a lot about how my city works and how local government works. I learned the disconnect between state and local government and how it causes inefficiencies. I'm learning a lot about local politics which helps me so much because I am a political science major. As a Detroit resident, it means a lot to learn to see how my city works in ways I didn't know before. Walking down Woodward you can see where and how funding is being spent.”

MACKENZIE SCHICK

BRILLIANT DETROIT

“I would love to go into education policy so being a Brilliant Detroit House helps me with the education and working with kids and understanding how teachers work. When you are in the classroom, you don't see the behind the scenes, the weeks they work in advance for that one activity.”

RYAN MONDALEK

CHARLES H. WRIGHT MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

“I've learned a ton. I can say that for certain. Even being from the area, I didn't know some of the nuances of how the city operates, of the people who live here and of the problems but also the resources that this place has.”

CIVIC PARTNERS



THE WRIGHT

Office of School Nutrition
Office of Enrollment
Office of Development & Partnerships
Talent & HR Department
Bilingual Education Department
Health Services

Buildings, Safety Engineering & Environment Department
Water & Sewerage Department
Department of Neighborhoods
Office of Immigrant Affairs
Lean Process Management
Office of Faith Based & Community Affairs
Office of the Treasury, Income Tax Division
Office of the Treasury, Property Tax Division
Office of Grants Management
Assessor's Office
Detroit Police Department, Criminal Intelligence
Health Department
Office of the Chief Financial Officer
Department of Innovation & Technology
Department of Transportation
Planning & Development Department



Department of Health, Veterans & Community Wellness
Department of Treasury
3rd Circuit Court



WAYS TO GIVE

We strive to make experiences like InnovateGov as accessible as possible for all students, through scholarships and housing support in Detroit.

CONTACT US

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Those interested in getting involved with the program are encouraged to learn more by visiting polisci.msu.edu/innovategov or contacting:

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