

MSU'S MICHIGAN GOVERNMENT SEMESTER PROGRAM ~ SPRING 2021 COHORT

| INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT | STUDENT BIOS |
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| LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | Mark B. Blinn is an active-duty veteran studying Political Science and Anthropology at Michigan State University in his senior class. He is a prior Aircraft Armament Specialist from Lansing, Michigan. Mark holds a certification in Leadership Development and is a proud Master Resilience Trainer. He has chosen a life in public service and remains committed to the core values the Air Force has instilled upon him. Mark strives to remain active in the local community and is an avid angler in Michigan. He also enjoys reading philosophy and small projects. Mark is a member of the National Society for Leadership and Success, Students Veterans Association, and a Government Affairs Specialist at the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce. He is also the distinguished recipient of Achievement and Commendation medals for meritorious service and was awarded the Air Forces Lieutenant General Leo Marquez award. |
| REFUGEE SERVICES OF ST. VINCENT CHARITIES | Rane Claypool is a sophomore studying History and Political Science-Prelaw with a minor in Peace and Justice Studies. She is a Macomb, MI native who is interning with the Refugee Services of St. Vincent Catholic Charities. She also is a sports reporter at the State News. Rane aspires to be a federal prosecutor to bring justice to sexual assault survivors and change how the system impacts survivors. |
| SENATOR KIM LASATA | Douglas Dallich Jr. is a junior studying Political Science at Michigan State University. He is originally from Edwardsburg, Michigan, and is a proud graduate of Edwardsburg High School. Doug was formerly on active duty in the US Air Force, and now serves in a guard capacity in Battle Creek. He is currently interning for State Senator Kim LaSata, of the 21st State Senate District. Doug is also one of the inaugural recipients of the Michigan Government Semester Program Scholarship. He is interested in spurring business growth through deregulation and tax-incentive programs, and aspires to attend law school after graduation. He speaks German, enjoys traveling and watching The Office. |
| SENATOR LANA THEIS | Devin Dudley is a senior majoring in political science at Michigan State University. He graduated high school in White Lake, Michigan in 2017 and graduated from Oakland Community College (OCC) in 2018 as a member of the Oakland Accelerated College Experience Program. Throughout his time in school, he has held many positions such as Class Secretary, Vice President of OCC's Academic Honor Society, and Student Ambassador. Devin's passion for politics began around the 2016 election and was further emphasized during his time at Michigan Boys State. Education is an important part of Devin's life and he seeks to improve aspects of education such as assistance for students with learning disabilities. Devin enjoys traveling, playing games with friends, and listening to music. |
| HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS | Dylan Gebhard is a sophomore studying Political Science at Michigan State University. Dylan is from Cadillac, Michigan and got his start in Michigan politics this summer interning for Commissioner Domanique Clemons in Genesee County. Dylan is interested in improving Michigan's infrastructure and hopes to one day run for elected office. |
| REPRESENTATIVE BEAU LAFAVE | Ronin Hackworth is a Junior Political Science Major at Michigan State University. He comes from a small town called Stockbridge about 20 miles south of Lansing and has enjoyed politics from an early age. He has turned his interest into a career path. In addition to being in the MGSP, he also serves as both Recruitment Chair for the MSU chapter of the College Republicans and serves in the Fundraising Department for the Spartan Global Development Fund. He will serve in the office of Representative Beau Lafave for this legislative session and hopes to one day enter law school. His policy interests include public integrity, foreign affairs and economics. |

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| <p>REP. KYRA HARRIS BOLDEN</p> | <p>Kennedy Hall is a junior at Michigan State University studying Political Science-Pre-Law with a minor in Law, Justice and Public Policy. Born and raised in Detroit, MI, she is the first of her family to go into law. Kennedy is an active student on her campus frequently volunteering with the organizations she is a part of, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and United Brody Black Caucus. When she is not busy with her college life or jobs, she likes to do puzzles, listen to music and take pictures of sunsets. Kennedy is pursuing a career in civil rights law, where she would like to defend people who have been discriminated against as a civil rights attorney. Kennedy is also one of the inaugural recipients of the Michigan Government Semester Program Scholarship.</p> |
| <p>DETROIT CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT BRENDA JONES</p> | <p>Bailee Hassen is a senior majoring in Political Science Pre-Law and minoring in LGBTQ Studies at Michigan State University. She is originally from a small town in Michigan called Pinckney. Bailee is a member of the community service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega and dedicates a lot of time for volunteering. In the future, Bailee would like to become an attorney that focuses on civil rights and equality and wants to eventually work with non-profit organizations that work towards equality such as the ACLU. She enjoys writing and playing with her cat Snoot.</p> |
| <p>REPRESENTATIVE JEWELL JONES</p> | <p>DJ Perry is a graduating-senior studying philosophy and political science at MSU. He is a young black man from Detroit and Dearborn, Michigan, and has a deep affinity for diversity, equity, and inclusion hailing from diverse neighborhoods. DJ has spent ample time throughout his life pursuing equality. From forming an organization in middle school to better integrate students with mental and physical disabilities in the student body to working on East Lansing's Human Relations Commission to mitigate implicit bias and discrimination within public safety agencies, DJ has worked tirelessly to improve others' lives. Interning for Representative Jewell Jones, DJ looks to expand his knowledge, take on new perspectives, and continue the never-ending work of making the world a better place for every person. His long-term goal is to become a member of Congress and serve on the Ethics Committee.</p> |
| <p>SENATOR KEVIN DALEY</p> | <p>Alec Poland is a junior studying Political Science Pre-Law and minoring in Leadership of Organizations, and Law, Justice, and Public Policy at Michigan State University. He was raised on the beaches of Northeastern Michigan in the small town of Oscoda. Alec has spent many summers working at a local canoe rental and his family's business. Alec enjoys being involved on campus where he is an active member of Kappa Alpha Pi Pre-law fraternity and the National Society of Leadership and Success. He has previously interned with State Senator Kevin Daley. Alec also enjoys playing golf and watching sports in his free time.</p> |
| <p>SENATOR JIM RUNESTAD</p> | <p>Nicholas Porco is a Junior at Michigan State University studying political science - prelaw and criminal justice. He is a proud Christian who is active in an on-campus ministry and at his local Church. He is from Canton, MI in the Detroit Area. He also works for the City Rescue Mission of Lansing working with the homeless population in the Lansing area. He also is very passionate about Michigan State and working with incoming students, he worked with New Student Orientation for two years as well. He is a huge sports fan and loves to watch movies and TV, read books of any kind, and take long bike rides listening to music. He aspires to go into law and eventually become a judge or go into some sort of ministry work in the Church.</p> |
| <p>REPRESENTATIVE SARAH ANTHONY</p> | <p>Anaria Rambus is a graduating senior in the Social Science college. She is studying Political Science Pre-Law with a minor in Human Behavior and Social Services. Anaria is an intelligent young woman from Detroit, Michigan. Throughout her time at MSU, she has grown to love giving back to the community by joining multiple community service organizations. She is a member and on leadership for the Epsilon Epsilon Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated an organization based upon sisterhood, scholarship and service. Anaria is also the President of Big Sister Little Sister Mentoring</p> |

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| | <p>Program. Giving back to the community and being a bridge to other young women is a passion for her. Anaria wants to influence young women in different communities to set goals and accomplish them because anything is possible. Anaria is currently an intern for State Representative Sarah Anthony's office. Her end goal is to be an attorney and own her own practice in different areas of law.</p> |
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| REPRESENTATIVE FELICIA BRABEC | <p>Claudia Schaafsma is a senior studying Political Science and Pre-Law at Michigan State University. She is a proud member of Sigma Delta Tau sorority and was elected President of her pledge class. Claudia has a big family in her hometown of Muskegon, Michigan where she previously volunteered at the Hume Home Assisted Living Facility and the Red Lotus Center for the Arts. She is a first-generation college student and an avid learner. Claudia is passionate about criminal justice reform and aspires to work as a public defender before running for public office in the future. She enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with her siblings.</p> |
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| SENATOR SEAN MCCANN | <p>Philip Schichtel is a senior studying Political science with a peace and justice studies minor. This is his first internship and he looks forward to helping and serving his district's constituents. He is passionate about human rights with a focus on LGBT rights and climate issues.</p> |
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| CAPITOL AFFAIRS | <p>Sara Seid is currently in her Junior year at Michigan State University and is on track to graduate in May of 2022 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science Pre-Law with a minor in Women and Gender Studies. She is from Franklin, Michigan, a small historic village in Bloomfield Township. Sara is interested in making healthcare more available and affordable for everyone, especially women and minorities. She aspires to attend law school and work in the public sector. She enjoys reading and cooking.</p> |
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| REPRESENTATIVE TULLIO LIBERATI | <p>Andrew Sevic is a senior at MSU studying public policy. He is originally from Charlotte, NC and moved to East Lansing to attend college. Drew has previously interned on Gretchen Whitmer's campaign for the Governor of Michigan and worked as a Peer Advisor for MSU's department of prevention, outreach, and education. Drew is an avid sports fan, and can be seen shooting hoops or hitting golf balls in his spare time.</p> |
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| REPRESENTATIVE ABRAHAM AIYASH | <p>Nia Skinner-Miller is junior studying World Politics with minors in Law, Justice and Public Policy, Economics and African American and African Studies. She is a proud Flint stone, who loves her community and has a undoubting commitment to being a catalyst to turn potential into lifelong purpose. She was previously awarded the 2019 Newman Civic Fellowship, 2018 Roosevelt Institute Forge Fellowship, among others. Nia is interested in the intersection of public health, economics, and public policy in domestic and international spaces to help communities build their own agency for advocacy. In her free time, she loves to do contemporary/modern dancing, reading, traveling, and anything CrossFit.</p> |
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| CITY OF LANSING CLERK'S OFFICE | <p>Andrew Thatcher is a senior majoring in Political Science (Pre-Law) and minoring in Law, Justice, and Public Policy at Michigan State University. He was on the varsity bowling team at his high school and he was also a member of the community service group 'Huskies with Heart' for three years. He has previously interned with former State Senator Mat Dunaskiss. Andrew is interested in making reforms to the criminal justice system and may even want to run for elected office someday. He enjoys playing video games with his friends and is a huge movie lover.</p> |
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| SENATOR JEFF IRWIN | <p>Bailey Tjolsen is a senior at Michigan State University from Onsted, Michigan. Bailey is studying Political Science with minors in Women's and Gender Studies and Environment and Health. She is most passionate about civil rights, universal healthcare, and the labor movement. She aims to work advocating for progressive policies in the future.</p> |