Elsie Hillman Civic Forum Student Programs

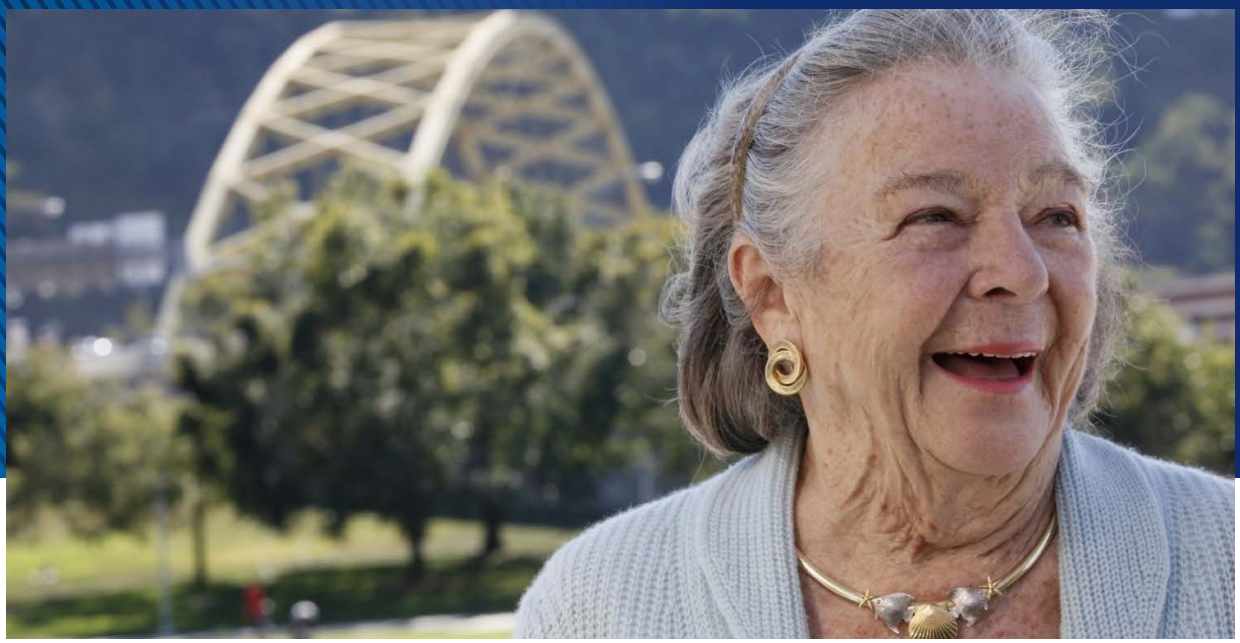
2022-2023



University of Pittsburgh

Institute of Politics

Elsie Hillman Civic Forum



Elsie Hillman Civic Forum

The Elsie Hillman Civic Forum (Elsie Forum) advances the ideals of social responsibility and public service by providing educational programs, research projects, and civic engagement and leadership development opportunities to students and community leaders. The academic and public engagement activities of the Elsie Forum align with the planned goals of the University of Pittsburgh to strengthen our community through service-oriented scholarship and mindful collaborations with strategic community partners.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ELSIE HILLMAN CIVIC FORUM

All Angles

All Angles is a speaker and discussion series that offers students an out-of-classroom opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of contemporary public policy issues and the variety of perspectives about those issues that coexist along today's political spectrum. The IOP has hosted sessions on topics such as climate change, economic opportunities, and civil discourse, and student participation in these programs continues to grow.

All Angles speakers and topics

ALL angles

A speaker and discussion series for students

February 2022

Missing in Plain Sight

A closer look at the people we overlook and misunderstand in our culture and the surprising common traits we all share.



Salena Zito
National Political Reporter



Manu Meel
CEO, Bridge USA

March 2022

Understanding Economic Opportunity/Equality

Students were presented with a thoughtful examination of progressive, moderate, and conservative points of view on the subject of economic equality and mobility featuring leading experts in the field of economics.



MODERATOR:
Dr. Kevin Kearns
Professor of Public and Nonprofit Management; Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA); University of Pittsburgh



SPEAKER:
Dr. Darrick Hamilton
Henry Cohen Professor of Economics and Urban Policy; The New School Milano



SPEAKER:
Dr. Scott Winship
Senior Fellow and Director of Poverty Studies; American Enterprise Institute

September 2022

Gain Strength from Our Differences

Dr. Arthur C. Brooks
Harvard Professor; Bestselling Author; and The Atlantic Columnist



Recognizing the passion that individuals bring to discussions of critical issues that impact those who we love and our communities. In preparation for the upcoming election season and the campaigns that are designed to divide, create acrimony, and further deepen political polarization, Brooks seeks to help readers get through this with self-care and respect for their fellow citizens. Arthur Brooks joined University of Pittsburgh students to discuss his book, *Love Your Enemies,* and his most recent work called *Live a Better Happier Life*. Through ancient wisdom and cutting-edge behavioral science, Brooks provided a roadmap to the prosperity that comes from choosing love and gaining strength from differences.

ALL angles
A speaker and discussion series for students

October 2022

The Global Demand for Energy and our Environment

The discussion for this program centered around how the global demand for energy is impacting our environment. Each speaker provided a brief overview of their work and roles in the fields of energy and sustainability. The speakers also offered their own professional perspectives while addressing student's concerns about climate change, energy demand, and the environment.



MODERATOR:
Dr. Aurora Sharrard
Executive Director of Sustainability; University of Pittsburgh



SPEAKER:
Dr. Paulina Jaramillo
Professor, Engineering and Public Policy, and Co-Director, Green Design Institute, Carnegie Mellon University



SPEAKER:
Dr. Scott Tinker
Director of the Bureau of Economic Geology, State Geologist of Texas; Professor holding the Allday Endowed Chair in the Jackson School of Geosciences at The University of Texas at Austin

April 2023

Managing the U.S. Relationship with China to Achieve Global Goals

Pitt students identified foreign policy as a key issue of interest, and the challenges that the U.S. government faces in developing foreign policy with relation to China are some of the most geopolitically complex. Human rights issues both within and outside of its borders are coupled with the deeply intertwined economies of the two nations. Students heard from experts who examined this issue from multiple perspectives.



MODERATOR:
Julia Santucci
Senior Lecturer in Intelligence Studies; Director, Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership & the Frances Hesselbein Leadership Forum



SPEAKER:
Dr. Aaron L. Friedberg
Professor of Politics and International Affairs; Co-Director, Center for International Security Studies; Princeton University



SPEAKER:
Dr. Susan Shirk
Research Professor, Global Policy and Strategy; Director Emeritus, 21st Century China Center; University of California San Diego

Never a Spectator

The Never a Spectator Civic Engagement Forum is a unique opportunity for Pitt students to network with some of the region's most prominent leaders from government and politics, foundations, and the nonprofit and business community. Students join these visionaries and mentors for an evening and dinner reception devoted to sharing a vision for public service, inspiring action, and developing the pipeline of leadership needed to foster sustainable growth and regional transformation as Pittsburgh continues to evolve as one of America's premier cities.

During the event, students learn about the incredible legacy of Elsie Hillman and engage in small group discussions with the mentors at their tables to learn how they can jumpstart their own community involvement and make a positive impact in the region.

Driving Change Through Public Service and Social Entrepreneurism

Friday, November 11, 2022 | University Club

Keynote: Taking Big Leaps One Step at a Time with Leah Lizarondo, CEO and Co-Founder of 412 Food Rescue

Leah Lizarondo is the CEO and Co-Founder of 412 Food Rescue, a social enterprise with a technology, logistics, and civic engagement model that aims to fight hunger and promote sustainability by preventing perfectly good food from entering the waste stream and directly distributing to organizations that benefit those who are food insecure.



2022 Community Mentors

Samantha Balbier, *Director, University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics and Elsie Hillman Civic Forum*

Olivia Bennett, *Member, Allegheny County Council, District 13*

Carlos Carter, *President & CEO, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh*

Cara Ciminillo, *Executive Director, Trying Together*

Jo Clark, *Vice President, Value Based Care, Highmark Health*

Sloane Davidson, *Founder & CEO, Hello Neighbor*

John Denny, *Founder and Principal, Denny Civic Solutions*

Angela Garcia, *Executive Director, Global Links*

Christopher C. Heck, *President & CEO, Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce*

Elizabeth Heft, *Vice President of Operations, Adagio Health*

Kirk Holbrook, *Program Director - Gizmology, Deeplocal*

Shenay Jeffrey, *Director, Pittserves, University of Pittsburgh*

Emily Kinkead, *Member, PA House of Representatives, 20th District*

Sabrina Saunders Mosby, *President & CEO, Vibrant Pittsburgh*

Anette Nance, MSW, *Former Office Director, PA House of Representatives, 24th District*

Mark A Nordenberg, *Chancellor Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh*

Heidi Norman, *CIO & Director, Department of Innovation & Performance, City of Pittsburgh*

Michelle Pagano-Heck, *President & Owner, Nonprofit Talent*

Ken Regal, *Executive Director, Just Harvest*

Dr. Angela M. Reynolds, *CEO, YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh*

Dr. Kendra Janelle Ross, *Head of Social impact, Duolingo*

Dr. David Sanchez, *Associate Director, Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation, University of Pittsburgh*

Beth Schwanke, JD, *Executive Director, Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security, University of Pittsburgh*

Michelle Stewart, *Director, University of Pittsburgh Community Engagement Center (CEC)*

Erika Strassburger, *Member, Pittsburgh City Council, 8th District*

DaVaughn M. Vincent-Bryan, *Inaugural Director of Involvement and Student Unions, University of Pittsburgh*

Doris Carson Williams, *President & CEO, African American Chamber of Commerce*

Colleen Young, *Director of Government Affairs, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank*

Internship and Seminar

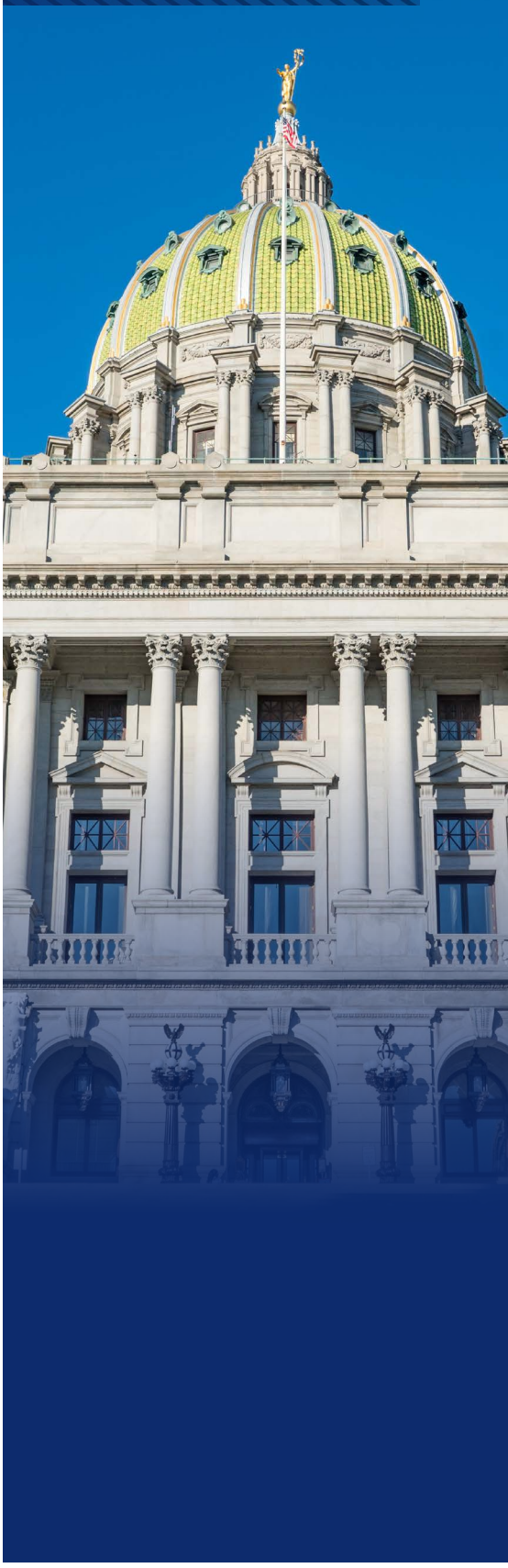
The internship and seminar course allows students to gain political experience while working with elected officials. The accompanying weekly seminar course is taught by two experienced government affairs professionals: Nello Giorgetti and Dennis McManus. The students earn four credits from Pitt's Department of Political Science within the Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences or the College of General Studies' Public Service major.



The Fall 2022 Internship and Seminar class

Spring 2022 Student Placements

Isaac Appel	Pittsburgh City Councilman Bruce Kraus
Stefan Bordeianu	Congressman Conor Lamb
Eleanor Forshaw	State Representative Dan Frankel
Michelle Furmansky	Pittsburgh City Councilmember Deb Gross
Claire Getz	Pittsburgh City Councilman Daniel LaVelle
Madelynn Lederer	State Representative Emily Kinkead
Alexandra Marvelous	State Senator Lindsey Williams
Tristan McClelland	State Representative Austin Davis
Drew Saglimben	Congressman Mike Doyle
Thomas Schmidt	Pittsburgh City Councilman Bobby Wilson
Sophia Shaprio	State Senator Jay Costa
Caleb Shook	Pittsburgh City Councilman Corey O'Connor
Vidya Surti	U.S. Senator Bob Casey
Fatema Traore	State Representative Nick Pisciottano
Dominic Victoria	State Representative Dan Deasy



Dykstra awardees

The Dykstra Award was established to memorialize the contributions of Dr. Dykstra as one of the founders of the program and co-instructor for the first 15 years of the program's existence. Each semester, one student from the internship and seminar class is selected for this prestigious honor. The student is one who, in the instructors' evaluation, best demonstrates the qualities that distinguished Dr. Dykstra as a scholar and government affairs professional.



Delaney Lindberg is a Communication Rhetoric major with a minor in Political Science. She interned with Senator Jay Costa in the Internship & Seminar course, where she assisted with social media, press releases, and other office communications. The instructors cited Delaney's exceptional writing skills as one of the reasons she received the Dykstra award.



Matthew Moore is a Politics and Philosophy major who has served on the Pitt Student Government Board. He interned with State Representative Dan Deasy on the West End in the Internship & Seminar course, where he helped constituents navigate community concerns. Matthew's ultimate goal is to become a prosecutor within a district attorney's office.



Madelynn Lederer is pursuing a dual major in Public and Professional Writing and Political Science at Pitt. She served as vice-chair of the Student Government Board and is also a member of the Blue and Gold Society. After graduation, she hopes to attend law school. During the Spring 2022 semester, she interned with State Representative Emily Kinkead.

Fall 2022 Student Placements

Nithya Achanta	State Representative Dan Frankel
William Allen	State Representative Valerie Gaydos
Julianna Asuncion	State Representative Nick Pisciottano
Justin Bouthillette	Pittsburgh City Councilman Corey O'Connor
Charles Burke	Mayor Ed Gainey
Tristan Cavaness	State Representative Sara Innamorato
Dalton Coppola	State Senator Jay Costa
Alexander Hodge	State Senator Lindsey Williams
Andrew Kocs	State Representative Emily Kinkead
Ciara Markoski	Venkat for State Representative (campaign)
Lili Martin	Caliguiri Group
Nathan McLaughlin	Pittsburgh City Councilmember Deb Gross
Matthew Moore	State Representative Dan Deasy
Jordan Thompson	State Representative Aerion Abney
Frances Troiano	Pittsburgh City Councilmember Erika Strassburger
Yitian Wang	Pittsburgh City Councilman Bruce Kraus
Meghan Whooley	Pittsburgh City Councilman Tony Coghill

Spring 2023 Student Placements

Sarah Barnes	State Representative Nick Pisciattano
Joe Breslin	Rachel Heisler for City Controller campaign
James Burn	State Representative Sara Innamorato
Gabriel Falo	State Representative Dan Deasy
Jannah Farag	Pittsburgh City Councilman Tony Coghill
Jada Graham	State Representative Emily Kinkead
Jean Kim	Caliguiri Group
Aastha Ladani	State Representative Dan Frankel
Cara Lagattuta	State Representative Dan Miller
Delaney Lindberg	Pittsburgh City Councilmember Deb Gross
Daniel Temmallo	State Representative Anita Kulik
Linda Washburn	State Senator Jay Costa
Emilie Yonan	Pittsburgh City Councilmember Erika Straussburger

Legislator for a Day

On February 27th, 2023, IOP staff and twelve exemplary University of Pittsburgh undergraduate students departed from Pitt's campus and travelled to Harrisburg for an overnight stay in preparation for an early arrival at the Capitol on February 28th. Throughout the morning and afternoon of the 28th, each student followed their legislator throughout various meetings and hearings. Students placed with PA House members witnessed the historic swearing in of Joanna McClinton as PA's new Speaker of the House, and students shadowing senators were recognized on the Senate floor during session. Some students and staff participated in a tour of the Capitol building, learning about the history of the building and its various works of art.

The goal of this annual program is to provide students with exposure to careers in state-level elected office and public policy, and to learn more about the specifics of the legislative process in Pennsylvania.



As part of their visit to the Capitol, some of the students met newly sworn in PA House Speaker Joanna McClinton.

> "We got to see history being made, and offices are at once as formal, more formal, and less formal than I thought."
>
> *— Legislator for a Day participant*

Thank you to the following legislators who participated in the 2023 program:

Sen. Camera Bartolotta (R – Washington)
Rep. Emily Kinkead (D – Allegheny)
Rep. Sara Innamorato (D - Allegheny)
Rep. Aerion Abney (D – Allegheny)
Rep. Nick Pisciottano (D – Allegheny)
Sen. Jay Costa (D – Allegheny)
Rep. Dan Deasy (D – Allegheny)
Rep. Rob Mercuri (R – Allegheny)
Rep. Dan Frankel (D – Allegheny)
Sen. Wayne Fontana (D – Allegheny)
Rep. James Struzzi (R – Indiana)
Rep. Arvind Venkat (D – Allegheny)

Participating students:

Nicole Sanna
Jannah Farrag
James Burn
Michael Akinsola
Caroline Guo
Airi Tilley
Michael Scotto
Ammar Allaboodi
Tri Raynes
Caleb Loughrin
Christian Luevano
Madison Sheridan

Elsie Hillman Honors Scholars

The Elsie Hillman Honors Scholars Program connects entrepreneurial and creative students with regional community partners to join an existing project or develop a student and agency-led project that addresses issues important to the organization and reflects the social commitment of Elsie Hillman. Through a structured and collaborative process, the student works closely with their community agency and mentor to develop a project, product, or conduct research. Scholars earn two credit hours from Pitt's Honors College. Beginning with the 2023-24 academic year, students will earn three credit hours from the Honors College.

This immersive program fosters experiential learning in affiliated community organizations where students develop and practice their leadership skills, project management skills, and further understand political, social, and economic factors that influence their organization's community and/or client population.



2021-2022 Honors Scholars reception

2021-2022 Scholars

(Projects concluded in the spring of 2022)

Scholar	Organization
Luis Cantu	Amachi Pittsburgh
Danielle Floyd	Steel Smiling
Gwyneth Meek	Adagio Health
Elizabeth Shunk	Literacy Pittsburgh
Sarah Vizz	Neighborhood Allies
Hosea Wah	Allegheny Intermediate Unit

2022-2023 Scholars

(Projects concluded in the spring of 2023)



2022-2023 Honors Scholars

Scholar	Organization
Delphie Backs	The Consortium for Public Education
Erikah Cudjoe	City of Pittsburgh – Department of Innovation and Performance
Arjun Kumar	The Pittsburgh Promise
Livia LaMarca	Jewish Women's Foundation of Greater Pittsburgh
Kim Le	Jewish Family and Community Services
Madelynn Lederer	Allegheny County Department of Human Services
Margie Lynch	Catholic Charities
Vishnu Maddipatla	Remake Learning and KnowledgeWorks
Nina Mennies	Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Lauren Posey	Women for a Healthy Environment
Ritika Segireddy	Adagio Health
Ryan Yeager	Auberle

Ambassadors for Civic Engagement (ACE) Fellowship

The Ambassadors for Civic Engagement (ACE) Fellowship provides an opportunity for graduate students to apply their education and skills to contribute to and improve the quality of life of people living in the Pittsburgh region through a long-term experiential fellowship with a community partner that works in public policy, governance, community organizing and activism, or philanthropy.

Throughout the 2022-23 academic year, ACE Fellows partnered with the Homeless Children's Education Fund to:

- Investigate a critical issue affecting students experiencing homelessness in Southwestern PA
- Identify a potential policy solution around which to convene public officials
- Design and convene a legislative luncheon (hosted in May 2023) for key public officials who could play a role in enacting policy solutions



PROJECT MENTOR:

Brian Knight
Manager of Community Engagement, Homeless Children's Education Fund



FELLOW:

Madison Bredice
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (Major: Human Security)



FELLOW:

Arvin Sequeira
School of Pharmacy



Congressman James G. Fulton (2nd from left) visits the Marshall Space Flight Center, March 9, 1962

James G. Fulton Award

The Elsie Hillman Civic Forum is pleased to announce that, beginning in fall 2023, internship and seminar students who are originally from Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Westmoreland, Butler, and/or Washington counties will be eligible to receive a $2,000 stipend. Up to four students per semester (eight students per year) can receive the award, provided by The Pittsburgh Foundation in honor of James G. Fulton, a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives who represented the region in Congress from 1945 until his death in 1971.

Cherna Fellowship



The Cherna Fellows program is an exclusive opportunity for students pursuing graduate degrees in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work. Jointly administered by the School of Social Work and the Institute of Politics, Cherna Fellows will embark on experiential learning opportunities within Allegheny County. These experiences will address the core competencies in social work while placing a heavy emphasis on developing knowledge and practice in public policy analysis, development, and advocacy.

The inaugural Cherna Fellow is **Jessie Neal**. She is passionate about improving access to quality mental and behavioral health care for underserved populations, advocating for human rights, and promoting social justice. Jessie's academic and professional interests are shaping policy in a positive direction and addressing present inequalities through human services.



Internal Interns



Jack Ruotolo

Jack Ruotolo served as the Elsie Hillman Civic Engagement Intern for 2022-23. Jack is an undergraduate at the University of Pittsburgh and is enrolled in the Dietrich School of Arts and Science and the Frederick Honors College. He is currently pursuing a degree in Politics and Philosophy, with minors in Economics and History. Aside from academics, Jack is also the President of the Pittsburgh Chapter of BridgeUSA, which has garnered widespread engagement and was awarded BridgeUSA Chapter of the Year in 2022.



Hattie Lindey

Hattie Lindey is the undergraduate policy intern at the IOP. She is a junior at the University of Pittsburgh studying Politics & Philosophy with a minor in English Literature and Museum Studies. She is particularly interested in education and labor, with a focus on public education and expanding equitable resources to rural communities. During her internship, Hattie worked with the Assistant Director of Policy Programs on dual enrollment policy research, assisted with the 2022 Elected Officials Retreat, and drafted meeting and event summaries.

Pitt Civic Action Week

Civic Action Week took place on October 17, 2022, and the theme of the program centered on Joy and Liberation. Tasha Peacock, Assistant Director of Student Programs & Community Outreach, moderated a one-hour session along with former Elsie Hillman Honor Scholars Danielle Floyd and Elizabeth Shunk as they discussed "Finding Joy by Helping Others."

University of Pittsburgh | Institute of Politics

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