



## MICHIGAN IN WASHINGTON PROGRAM

Where our students' aspirations for the future come together with the vitality and diversity of Washington, D.C.

Since its inception nearly 20 years ago, the Michigan in Washington (MIW) Program has grown in breadth and success. Each year, 45 to 50 students are drawn from majors across the university to work while learning about and engaging in public service in our nation's capital. Recent internships have included placements in both houses of the U.S. Congress, D.C. Public Defender Service, the Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. Department of Justice, Amnesty International, The American Enterprise Institute, the Brookings Institution, C-SPAN, and CNN, to name just a few. Some students return to Washington to continue careers in public service while others move on to various careers or higher education, better prepared because of their internships.

The Michigan in Washington Program offers an extraordinary opportunity for undergraduates from any major to spend a semester in Washington, D.C. Students combine meaningful internships with coursework that reflects their particular area of academic interest. Classes are taught by faculty fellows who are practitioners in their areas of expertise. Students also gain access to local Washington experts in their research area, work experience, and networking opportunities in a desired field.

While in D.C., students are encouraged to engage in social and cultural activities and to visit some of the nation's significant monuments and national treasures. Students make lifelong friends and gain exposure to D.C. resources, including people living and working in the capital. The program's success depends, in large part, on the MIW Advisory Board, the U.M.D.C Alumni Club, and our MIW alumni, who are extraordinarily generous. They identify internships, mentor students, advise program staff, support enrichment activities, endow scholarships, and provide operational support. They share their expertise with our students and even open their homes to them.

A great public university such as the University of Michigan should have a strong presence in our nation's capital, where our students' aspirations for the future come together with the vitality and diversity of Washington, D.C. Scholarship support is needed to ensure more students have access to this transformative program, regardless of their financial situation. Gifts are also needed to assist with hiring Faculty Fellows from the D.C. area to teach courses for our students and to provide funds for renting classroom and event space. Because MIW is such an important step for our students in realizing their career aspirations, we also need support for a new Professional Development fund to give them all the support and tools they need to succeed.

## MIW OPPORTUNITY FUND

One of MIW's most important objectives is to ensure that qualified students from all backgrounds have access to the Washington D.C. experience. The Opportunity Fund helps defray travel, housing, transportation, and other expenses for those students with demonstrated financial need. It enables us to provide need-based support to students with superior academic achievement who are from diverse backgrounds, including first-generation and underrepresented educational or geographical backgrounds (e.g. public high schools in rural or urban areas). Because student support is based on need, grant amounts vary, but our goal is to support 28 students at approximately \$5,000 each, which can be accomplished with an endowed gift of \$2.5M or \$150,000 annually.



Christian Lored-Duran, a Public Policy major from Grand Rapids, Michigan, credits his internship with MIW as an immersive learning experience in policymaking and advocacy work. Through his placement in the Office of Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib and the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics, he was able to help in the initial stages of legislation to uplift immigrant communities and ensure all students have access to education.

His work included drafting legislative correspondents, working on research memos for new potential legislation, attending community events that empower the Latinx community, and ensuring communities have access to the resources they need and deserve.

"Since beginning my internship, I have become more confident in my ability to advocate and uplift my community back home effectively. As a first-generation Latinx college student, I never imagined myself in these spaces. Nonetheless, being here taught me how important it is that I'm not the last.

The stories and experiences of my community are incredibly valuable, and the skillset of advocacy and community organizing I've learned throughout my internships have propelled me to return home and work alongside my community to achieve the change we hope to see in the world."

## FACULTY TEACHING FELLOWS

The sustained vibrancy of the MIW Program depends upon the continuous development of unique and relevant courses. Students enroll in electives that enable them to satisfy course requirements away from the U-M campus. The diversity of electives is essential to recruiting students from different majors. We hire Faculty Fellows who are both scholars and practitioners working in the D.C. area to develop and teach these elective courses. We currently lack sufficient funding to offer our students more than two electives per semester. Funding of \$75,000 annually or \$37,500 per semester would support six electives per year, three each semester.

## CLASSROOM AND EVENT SPACE RENTAL FUND

The success of the MIW Program relies, in part, on the breadth of activities made available to Michigan students. In addition to their internships, students take electives and a weekly speakers' course featuring prominent guests and debates on important topics. They are also encouraged to attend networking events to expose them to our D.C.-area alumni and other non-U-M students enrolled in similar programs in D.C. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the MIW program lost access to the classroom and event space that it previously utilized for these purposes. We now have to rent space from other university programs that own buildings in D.C. These costs are putting a real strain on our operating budget. Endowed gifts of \$25,000 - \$50,000 would provide sufficient funds to continue renting classroom and event space.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Even before our students arrive in D.C., we are preparing them to make the most of this unique opportunity. Once selected, students are required to enroll in a professional development course in Ann Arbor that provides them with the tools to secure an internship in D.C. They learn to create effective resumes and write cover letters, negotiate with potential employers once they are offered an internship, and develop an understanding of business etiquette and the Washington social scene. We are committed to expanding the professional development experience for MIW students to include one-on-one coaching, public speaking training, professional headshots, and access to funds for business clothing. Annual funding of \$15,000 - \$20,000 would help us meet these goals.

## WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your partnership connects the college's rich past to a boundless and bright future. You can change lives with gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities, and create a meaningful legacy through your bequest, trusts, gift annuities, and other planned gifts. Your generosity makes an impact on what's next, for a better tomorrow.

 **for what's next ►****Look to Michigan**

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