

Winter 2023 MIW Cohort

**Molly
Makarewicz**



Rep. Tim Walberg
(R-MI 7th)

A native of Canton, Michigan, Molly Makarewicz is a senior at the University of Michigan pursuing a degree in political science and minors in sustainability and energy sciences and policy. Last summer, she was afforded the opportunities to serve in the offices of Representatives John Moolenaar and Tim Walberg, witnessing firsthand the impacts of legislative actions on Americans. Through her work, Molly aims to be a champion of bipartisanship and is passionate about environmental and energy policy. She hopes to pursue a career in public service to set our nation on a path to a cleaner and more resilient future.

Sonali Iyer



Rep. Shri Thanedar

Sonali Iyer is in her final year at the University of Michigan studying political science. She is from Atlanta, Georgia and is interested in immigration, international law, civil rights law, and public policy. She is involved in Michigan in Color, a section of the Michigan Daily for POC, and is a research assistant for the Institute of Social Research at the university. After undergrad, Sonali aspires to work as a paralegal in a law firm before eventually attending law school. She is passionate about promoting equality in the distribution of resources through policy.

Isabelle Tiplady



Sen. Debbie
Stabenow (D-MI)

Isabelle Tiplady is a junior at the University of Michigan studying Political Science. She is interested in law, public policy, and human rights. Isabelle plans to work on political campaigns for a few years before law school. She is an Assistant Manager at a local ice cream store for years. She also currently works as a field organizer for Voters Not Politicians, working to expand voting rights in Michigan. This work has taught her that she loves working directly with people and hopes to do so in her eventual career. Isabelle's personal interests include running, yoga, and crocheting.

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Sarah Fernandes



Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE)

Sarah Fernandes is a senior at the University of Michigan studying Communications and Political Science. She is interested in political communications, law and public policy, and government relations. Sarah plans to stay in Washington D.C. following MIW to work on Capitol Hill in a press-related capacity before law school. In the past, Sarah has worked in the Michigan Senate, the White House, the U. S. Senate, and General Motors where she learned to segue her majors through creating political messaging, something she desires to continue in the future. In her free time, Sarah enjoys watching shows like Arrested Development and Scandal.

Agatha Pinheiro



Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)

Agatha Pinheiro is a senior at the University of Michigan, where she is studying Political Science with a minor in Law, Justice and Social Change. She is also a fellow with IGNITE, a nonprofit that seeks to empower young women to pursue political power. As an IGNITE fellow, she has shadowed elected officials, organized events at the Michigan Capitol, and started new college chapters in the Detroit area. She has previously worked on county, state, and U.S Congress races. Agatha also interned with Reproaction, a reproductive justice organization. As an immigrant from Brazil, Agatha is passionate about increasing the participation of minorities in politics, especially Latinas.




Claire Monroe




Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)

Claire Monroe is a junior at the University of Michigan pursuing a Bachelor's in General Studies. Her main points of academic interest are sociology, women and gender studies, and political science. She began her political journey with grassroots activism in high school through her leadership in starting the Gender Equity Club, which advocated for equity for female students. She was previously a fellow for the One Campaign for Michigan. She serves as Activism Chair of Zeta Omega Eta, an inclusive feminist sorority. After graduation, she hopes to work in D.C. Claire is an Ann Arbor native and enjoys crochet and Taylor Swift.

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<p>Elaina Ryan</p>  <p>Ronald Reagan Institute</p>	<p>Elaina Ryan is a senior at the University of Michigan majoring in history. She is involved with the Michigan Pre-Law Society and the Kelsey Museum Student Advisory Group. Elaina curated an exhibit through the University of Michigan Library on the Greco-Turkish War, focusing on refugee experiences. She is also the House President of Black Elk Cooperative House, where she works to foster a strong sense of community responsibility. Elaina is passionate about labor issues and animal rights. She plans to spend her life working in government, whether that is through running for political office or fighting for workers' rights.</p>
<p>Jarett Wall</p>  <p>DC Public Defender Service</p>	<p>Jarett Wall (he/him) is a junior studying political science and history at the University of Michigan. He is particularly interested in the history of how legal rulings have shaped present inequality. Jarett plans on pursuing a law degree following graduation. With interest in focusing on immigration law, sparked by his own experience with the immigration system. Professionally, he has been involved with several local political campaigns in his hometown of Muskegon, including Mayor and City Commissioner. He hopes to continue advocating for those without a voice as he continues in his educational and professional career.</p>
<p>Sophia Garcia</p>  <p>Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI 12th)</p>	<p>Sophia Garcia is a junior at the University of Michigan studying Political Science and Classical Archaeology. She hails from Saginaw, Michigan. Sophia has an array of interests in American politics, international affairs, and national security. She also has an interest in artifact-handling. Her passion for promoting national security and protection of the American people came from her father who works within the U.S. government and encouraged her to pursue a career in this field. Sophia plans to continue her education by obtaining a master's degree for Political Science. Sophia's favorite past times are reading mystery books and watching Netflix shows.</p>

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<p>Jailyn Burks</p>  <p>Office of the Attorney General for DC Domestic Violence & Special Victims Section</p>	<p>Jailyn Burks(she/her) is currently a junior enrolled at the University of Michigan studying Political Science. She is from Southfield, MI. Jailyn is passionate about public policy, social justice reform, and racial and gender equality. Jailyn is an active member of the executive boards for The National Council of Negro Women, a historical organization geared towards the advancement of African American Women, CurlTalk, an organization centered around natural hair and how to properly take care of it, and the Inclusive Campus Collaborative, which partners with faculty and students to help create a more inclusive campus environment.</p>
<p>Ben Levitt</p>  <p>Rep. Hayley Stevens (D-MI 11th)</p>	<p>Ben Levitt is a junior from Grand Rapids, MI studying political science at the University of Michigan. Ben developed an interest in politics early on in his childhood, leading him to participate in various political activities throughout high school and college. These include an internship for Governor Whitmer's 2018 election campaign, as well as for State Representative Kevin Coleman's re-election campaign in 2022. Ben's political interests center around public opinion and how that may or may not relate to political strategy decisions. After college, Ben hopes to attend law school and ultimately pursue a career in political analysis or strategy.</p>
<p>Camila Chicaiza</p>  <p>US Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC)</p>	<p>Camila Chicaiza was born and raised in Quito, Ecuador. She is a Junior at the University of Michigan majoring in International Studies with a sub-concentration in Global and Environmental Health. Camila is passionate about migration policies and the representation of minorities. She has interned at non-profit organizations and worked on research projects that seek to provide health and policy support. As an immigrant herself, not only is she knowledgeable of the hardships that migrants face but she is also eager to continue strengthening her efforts to make migration policies fair and efficient, both at a national and international level.</p>

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Azul Cibils Blaquier



CNN Opinion

Azul Cibils Blaquier is a senior at the University of Michigan studying philosophy. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Azul has lived and traveled around the world. She hopes to pursue a career in journalism, where her main areas of interest include philosophy, politics, and economics. Her work has been published in multiple newspapers, most recently in Business Insider. Proficient in Spanish, English, and French, Azul is looking to gain valuable experience that will contribute to her goal of becoming an opinion journalist.

Samantha Davies



Smithsonian
Institution's American
Museum of Natural
History, Paleobiology
Section, Bivalve Lab

Samantha Davies is a junior at the University of Michigan studying Earth and Environmental Science with minors in German and Sustainability. She's the undergrad representative in GeoClub, the Earth department's student organization. She enjoys helping plan department activities like camping trips and picnics. Samantha has done field work in Texas and Mississippi for her research on Cretaceous Ocean temperatures, which we can use to predict the effects of modern climate change. She is passionate about environmental justice and hopes to pursue a PhD in modern geochemistry to provide evidence that would hold polluters accountable for their actions.

Justin Kasieta



Rep. Jack Bergman
(R-MI 1st)

Justin Kasieta, an Upper Peninsula native, is a senior pursuing an interdisciplinary bachelor's in general studies (BGS) degree at the University of Michigan. Justin is currently a legislative intern for Michigan State Representative Greg Markkanen (R-110th District). Justin is also the recipient of the 2022 Rosenthal Legislative Intern Award. Justin also served as the campaign manager for Representative Markkanen in 2017. Justin is passionate about veterans' issues and improving the foster care system. Justin is a proud graduate of Marquette Senior High School.

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Noah Purdy	<p>Noah Purdy is a senior at the University of Michigan with interests in foreign policy and international travel and shipping logistics. In his time at the University of Michigan, he co-founded Students for Democracy, a group dedicated to researching, advocating for, and educating the public on contemporary domestic policy issues. He recently served as an organizer for Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin's reelection campaign. He was tasked with managing events and volunteers in Livingston and Oakland counties, where he grew up. Through relationships made during the campaign, he is excited to accept a position in Slotkin's DC office. Noah hopes to explore and develop a further understanding of his interests during this internship to better understand his hopes for a career.</p>
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