



The Maddy Institute

The San Joaquin Valley – Inspiring Public Leadership

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Mark Keppler
Executive Director

As Alumni of The Maddy Institute's Legislative Intern Scholar Program, we hope that you are applying the "the Maddy Way" in and continuing to emphasize integrity, civility and a problem solving approach in your professional interactions. Our alumni's success and community involvement continue to be a source of great pride for The Maddy Institute. You are indeed part of a very special Alumni community.

Since the beginning of our program over 20 years ago, we have had the privilege of attracting some of the most talented and driven students the Valley has to offer—individuals who, like you, aspire to make a meaningful difference in our region. To maintain and expand these opportunities for the next generation of Valley leaders, we rely in large part on the generous support of donors, like you.

As we approach the season of giving, we invite you to "pay it forward" and consider supporting the growth and success of The Maddy Institute's Legislative Intern Scholarship Program. As I am sure you can attest, the generosity of a donor can make a lasting difference in the life of a student, empowering them to pursue their passion for public service.

The following is just a small sample of our past and current Maddy interns. Like you, they are destined to make a real difference in their communities—but it all starts with that first significant opportunity. We hope you will join us in providing that opportunity so we can continue to develop the Valley's future political, civic and business leaders.

Thank you again for your commitment to helping inspire the next generation of Valley leaders.

With Appreciation,

MADDY ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Austyn Smith Jones

Managing Director,
UC Merced Center for Analytic Political Engagement

"Becoming a Scholar-Intern for The Maddy Institute was a catalyst for my career. I was able to learn from experts in the field and had great mentorship opportunities. I gained a deeper understanding of important concepts and critical thinking in assessing and responding to constituent needs while assisting in the district offices. Looking back, I know the skills I developed and connections I made during my internship are still relevant in my role today."

Austyn interned for Senator Anthony Canella in 2012-2013 and was asked to return as an intern shortly in 2014. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California, Merced in 2013 and has been a staff member at the campus in various roles since 2014. Currently, Austyn is the Managing Director for the Center for Analytic Political Engagement at UC Merced. She has assisted in founding the Center on campus and implementing signature programs such as the CAPE Legislative Bootcamp program, a week-long experiential learning opportunity for UC Merced students that trains and prepares them for summer legislative internships. She is passionate about helping students grow and develop professional skills that will prepare them for their future careers.

David Klein

Staff Assistant and Intern Coordinator,
Office of U.S. Representative Jim Costa

"My internship with the Maddy Institute was such a door-opening and insightful experience to me. I felt left behind by never having a paid internship opportunity in undergrad, so obtaining a second chance as a grad student benefitted my life in so many ways and gave me the experience and knowledge necessary to work full time for a political office."



David currently works for the U.S House of Representatives at the Fresno District Office of Congressman Jim Costa as the Staff Assistant and Intern Coordinator. He provides administrative support to the office and constituents of Congressional District #21 while occasionally assisting with casework and staffing the Congressman at district events. He also interviews, onboards, trains, and supervises interns for the office. Additionally, David is a full time graduate student in Fresno State's Master's of Public Administration program.

MADDY ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Guadalupe Gutierrez

Assistant Regional Planner,
San Joaquin Council of Governments

"The Maddy Institute helped me land an internship with the California Strategic Growth Council's Transformative Climate Communities program where I conducted research to ensure program guidelines were better aligned with the state's workforce priorities on job quality, equity, and climate resilience. This internship helped me become familiar with strategies local governments can take to develop a skilled workforce and climate-resilient communities."

Guadalupe graduated from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs with a Master of Public Policy. She returned home to the Central Valley and started working with the San Joaquin Council of Governments as an Assistant Regional Planner. The work that Guadalupe is doing is closely related to her Maddy Institute internship. She is working on programs that promote climate adaptation, workforce development, and transportation equity in the region. She is thankful for the Maddy Institute as it has helped jumpstart her career in planning and in the Central Valley.

Blake Zante

District Representative,
Office of U.S. Representative Kevin McCarthy

"The Maddy Institute's internship program helped launch my career. As an intern, I built valuable relationships and gained insightful knowledge about the policymaking process at the state and federal level. Without the generous scholarships from the Maddy Institute, I would not have the experiences that influenced my career trajectory today."



Blake interned in Assemblyman Jim Patterson's Sacramento office in 2016 and Congressman Devin Nunes' Washington, D.C. office in 2018. Blake majored in Political Science, graduated with honors from the Smittcamp Family Honors College, and served as student body president at Fresno State. In 2018, he was accepted into the Capital Fellows program and joined the office of Senator Andreas Borgeas as a Senate Fellow before eventually becoming his Press Secretary. In 2022, Blake was hired as the Political Director for Congressman Kevin McCarthy's campaign. He is now a District Representative for Congressman and former Speaker Kevin McCarthy. Blake also serves as a Planning Commissioner for Fresno County and on the board of directors for the Fresno State Alumni Association.

FALL LEGISLATIVE INTERNS



Brieanna Anderson – *Fresno Office of U.S. Senator Alex Padilla* – is a fourth-year student at the University of California, Merced, pursuing a degree in Political Science with a minor in English. Brieanna is originally from Folsom, California, and has always been passionate about public policy, foreign affairs, and government reform. In the past, she had the opportunity to intern for Capitol Weekly as well as Assemblywoman Esmeralda Soria. At Capitol Weekly, she learned about public policy, local public figures, and state governance. In addition, interning for Assemblywoman Esmeralda Soria taught Brieanna a lot about state agencies, the legislative process, and local government. This past summer, Brieanna also had the opportunity to intern for the California Strategic Growth Council, ultimately growing her network and working with different SGC programs. After graduating from UC Merced, Brieanna plans on attending law school to obtain her Juris Doctor degree. Brieanna is excited to intern for U.S. Senator Alex Padilla's Fresno Office and she hopes to learn more about local government.

Alyssa Cantu – *Visalia Office of Assemblymember Devon Mathis* – is a junior at California State University, Fresno majoring in Economics. She was born and raised in Visalia, California before moving to Fresno to continue her education. Alyssa has deep roots in the Central Valley since it's not only her home but also home to her family and close friends. After college, she has goals to pursue a Master's Degree in Economics and have a career in public policy, focusing on environmental economics. Alyssa is passionate about water regulation, pollution control, and agriculture; and most of all, making the Central Valley an overall better place.



Marco Florez – *Fresno City Council President Tyler Maxwell* – is a rising third year at California State University, Fresno. Marco is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a minor in Military Science. He is a cadet in the U.S. Army ROTC program and is the leading cadet recruiting operations officer. At Fresno State, Marco is committed to improving the campus by becoming the Senator of Social Sciences in Associated Students, Inc., as well as serving as a Governing Member in the Cal State Student Association, advocating for CSU students systemwide. He is Vice President of his fraternity Lambda Chi Alpha and is passionate for the fraternity's philanthropic efforts with the partnership of Feeding America. After graduation, Marco plans to attend law school and become an attorney in the U.S. Army JAG Corps. Through this internship, he hopes to learn more about local politics, meet like-minded people, and help those in the community around him.

FALL LEGISLATIVE INTERNS



Aleace Greenleaf – *Bakersfield Office of Assemblymember Jasmeet Bains* – is an ambitious senior at California State University, Bakersfield, working towards a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Public Administration. Hailing from Bakersfield, California, Aleace is deeply passionate about political engagement, policy analysis, and community betterment. Drawing inspiration from her hometown, Aleace has actively involved herself in various endeavors aimed at creating positive change. As an intern at Stop Abuse For Everyone (SAFE), she delved into collaborative project development, creating impactful presentations, and fostering connections within SAFE's network. Aleace's dedication to community service is further reflected in her role as a Poll Clerk at the Kern County Elections Department, where she diligently ensured the smooth functioning of democratic processes. Her versatile background includes customer-focused roles at a major American retailer and compassionate work at the Bakersfield Animal Care Center. Aleace is confident that her work with the Maddy Institute internship program will provide her with indispensable skills and knowledge, paving the way for a successful career in policy and a deeper understanding of the legislative system.

Noelia Lopez – *Governor Gavin Newsom, External Affairs* – a rising senior at the University of California, Merced. Noelia is majoring in Sociology with a minor in Political Science. She was raised in Santa Maria, California. In her hometown, Noelia grew up with little to no recognition of her indigenous roots from Oaxaca. Because of this, she developed an interest in community advocacy, especially for marginalized communities, as she knew what it was like to be underrepresented. Noelia works as a student prevention assistant for the CARE Office, which focuses on prevention and intervention advocacy for different forms of gender-based violence. She is also a member of Phi Alpha Delta, where she currently holds the position of community service chair. Noelia also volunteers for the Services for Undocumented Students Resource Center. Overall, she is committed to helping others and creating change in her community. After graduating, she hopes to go to law school and become an attorney that represents survivors of gender-based violence. Noelia is very thrilled to be interning for the External Affairs Office of Governor Gavin Newsom. She looks forward to working and learning more about the daily operation of the office, public policy in the Central Valley, and policymaking.



FALL LEGISLATIVE INTERNS



Jose Robeldo – *Fresno Office of U.S. Representative Jim Costa* – is a student at California State University, Fresno. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science in 2019 from Fresno State and will be graduating with a Master of Public Administration this fall. Jose was born and raised in Fresno and wants to give back to the Central Valley by pursuing a career in California public service, utilizing his education and professional experience in education, government, and community relations. He has worked in the office of Fresno City Councilmember Luis Chavez, and has been a Migrant Education Counselor with Fresno Unified School District where he's currently employed as a substitute teacher. By interning in the Fresno office of U.S. Representative Costa, Jose hopes to serve his community while also gaining valuable insight into the California government system to lay a foundation for his future career as a public administrator.

Hannah Rosica – *Governor Gavin Newsom, Office of Planning & Research* – is a second-year graduate student at California State University, Bakersfield where she is pursuing her Master's in Public Administration. As of Fall 2023, she will be working as an intern for the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. Hannah was first introduced to the career field in 2021 where she served as a Congressional Intern for the Panetta Institute for Public Policy. She spent a semester in Washington, DC where she worked as a congressional intern for Congressman Scott Peters (D-CA-50). Following her time in the U.S. Capitol, she graduated with her degree in History in 2022, and decided to continue her education at CSU, Bakersfield. After completing her Master's program Hannah hopes to continue her career in public administration. She is passionate about researching issues pertinent to her community in Kern County such as youth tobacco use and hopes to have a hand in writing policy that will shape the future of her community.



Verania Vizcarra – *Merced Office of Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria* – is a junior at the University of California, Merced majoring in Political Science. Verania is a first-generation student from Watsonville, California, a predominantly Latino community. Growing up she experienced first-hand the struggles low-income, first-generation, Latino, and women of color experience. Verania understood the disparity in resources that underrepresented communities faced. Her drive for social change has pushed her to become more active on campus by becoming the president of the Democrats at UC Merced and a Political Science research assistant. Through these experiences, Verania was able to make connections with organizations such as CADEMS and Swing Left. She was able to develop her leadership skills and start creating her network. She is passionate about accessibility to housing, immigration rights, women's rights, social justice, and the environment. She hopes to pursue a career in politics to help bring change to her communities and those alike.

THANK YOU TO OUR MADDY ASSOCIATES AND SPONSORS

President's Circle - \$10,000+

BNSF Railway
Harris Ranch
The Wonderful Company

Governor's Circle - \$5,000

E & J Gallo Winery
Fresno State Associated Students, Inc.

Senator's Circle - \$2,500

Aera Energy LLC
Bonner Family Foundation
Comcast
Community Medical Centers
Fresno State Foundation
Fresno State President's Office
Nossaman, LLC
Sagaser, Watkins & Wieland
Valley Children's Hospital
Wawona Frozen Foods

Assemblymember's Circle - \$1,000

California Fresh Fruit Association
Jeffrey Cowan
The Gualco Group Inc.
The Mr. & Mrs. William M. Lyles Fund
Phillip Maroot
Miles, Sears & Eanni
Montoy Law Corporation
Ralph Simoni
Jo-Ann Slinkard
Woolf Farming

WAYS YOU CAN DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

Over **500** Legislative Intern Scholars have had the opportunity to learn about the legislative process and many have gone on to become leaders in politics, law, business and non-profit organizations. We have been able to grow this program and increase opportunities for Valley students due, in large part, to the donations of those who realize the importance of "paying it forward."

As an Alum, you can help us continue our goal of inspiring public leadership. Ways you can help:

- Give back to the areas of the Institute that mean the most to you
- Make a *lasting* impact by becoming a Maddy Associate before the end of the year
- Connect with fellow Alumni and our current interns to foster long-term relationships
- Hire fellow alumni in professional development opportunities when possible

Not only are you contributing to a life-changing experience for these Valley students, you also planting the seeds of the next generation of Valley leaders.

The Maddy Institute
4910 N. Chestnut Ave. M/S OF 123 Fresno, CA 93726



The Maddy Institute is a 501(c)3 public charity. All gifts are tax deductible.