

ICMA | student chapters

ICMA Local Government Early Career Service Certificate

Winter 2020 Recipients



Aaron Norris | Auburn University

Aaron holds a bachelor of science in interdisciplinary university studies with emphases in business, leadership, and philanthropy and nonprofit studies from Auburn University, as well as a master of community planning and a master of public administration dual degree with a graduate minor in economic development from the Auburn University Graduate School. He is originally from Andalusia, Alabama, and was recently hired at the Alabama Department of Commerce in the Business Development Division.



Anna Shields | University of Delaware

Anna is from Wilmington, Delaware, and just completed the master of public administration program at the University of Delaware. Her undergraduate degree is in political science and public policy, with minors in women's studies and legal studies. She would like to work in state and local government policy analysis and is particularly interested in health, labor, housing, and criminal justice policy.



Bryant Williams | Georgia Southern University

Bryant is from Arlington, Georgia. He received a bachelor's degree in political science from Fort Valley State University in 2018. He has also obtained a master of public administration degree with a concentration in public management from Georgia Southern University in 2020. He plans to work in a management position for a local government.



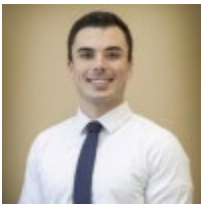
Challie Pizano | The University of Texas at Dallas

Challie has been working for the Denton Fire Department for 16 years. He just completed a master's degree in public affairs at UTD and looks forward to applying everything he learned to a career in local government.



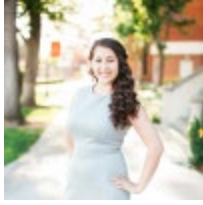
Jeremy Kimble | University of Connecticut

Jeremy grew up and has lived in Watertown, Connecticut, for his entire life. He received his undergraduate degree in psychology with a minor in sociology at UCONN, where he learned about the MPA program. After graduation, he was accepted into the MPA program and began his journey into the public sector. After graduation, he hopes to continue working in local government in Connecticut.



Kevin Noreikis | Northern Illinois University

Kevin completed his undergraduate degree from Governors State University, and has just graduated with a master's in public administration from Northern Illinois University. He currently lives in Tinley Park, Illinois.



Nicole Cuadras | University of La Verne

Nicole is a community information specialist in management services for Ontario. She graduated from the University of La Verne in 2013 with a bachelor's in communications and in 2020 with a master's in public administration. She hopes to continue a long and successful career in local government.



Nicole Koehn | University of Central Oklahoma

Nicole graduated this fall with an MPA with a focus on urban management from the University of Central Oklahoma, where she graduated with honors. She also received her undergraduate degree from the University of Central Oklahoma in general studies with dual minors in business administration and Spanish in 2014. Originally from Norman, Oklahoma, Nicole has made Edmond her home for the past 11 years and has been the Carl Reheman intern at Edmond since February 2020. Future goals include staying on with Edmond, helping with process improvement and increasing the level of customer service delivery to citizens. She is also concerned with making Edmond more sustainable through the development of a Green Business Certificate Program, working alongside the Sustainability Department.



Zach Bartush | The University of Texas at Dallas

Zach received his undergraduate degree from Austin College in Sherman, Texas, and recently completed a master of public affairs at the University of Texas Dallas in December 2020. Other than a two-year period during his Americorps VISTA service in Ohio, Zach has lived and worked in the North Texas region. Zach currently works as a community relations coordinator at Fluor Corporation to implement the local giving, volunteerism, and other specialized community outreach programs for the company. Post-graduation plans will see him continue in his current role and pursue

opportunities to work with public and private entities to improve the health and well-being of communities.



Caroline Gabiga | Northern Illinois University

Caroline is from Bloomingdale, Illinois. She is currently a Senior Management Analyst in the Village Manager's Office for the Village of Elk Grove. In December of 2020, she graduated with her MPA from Northern Illinois University. She received her undergraduate degree in Sociology in 2016 from Eastern Illinois University where she also minored in Spanish and Criminology. As a recent graduate from the MPA program, she plans to continue learning through various professional development events, projects, and take advantage of any opportunities that come along during her career in local government.

Not Pictured:

- Demarcus Powell, The University of Texas at Dallas
- Morgan McCoy, The University of Texas at Dallas
- Sheniqia Haynes, University of Central Oklahoma
- Sung Chul Woo, The University of Texas at Dallas

Spring 2020 Recipients



Jordan Wallace | Georgia Southern University

Jordan Wallace is from Douglas, Georgia, and recently graduated from the Master of Public Administration program at Georgia Southern University, where she also earned a Bachelor of Science in psychology. She is pursuing a career with a human resource department of a public or nonprofit organization.



Samantha Bullinger | Auburn University

Samantha has been involved with ICMA since she was an undergrad double majoring in public administration and psychology at Auburn University. Following graduation, she accepted a two-year fellowship with the city of Opelika, Alabama, and began pursuing her MPA. Her accomplishments include overhauling the city's recruitment strategy for ADA-compliance and managing a summer youth employment program. In December, she accepted a job with the city of Sandy Springs, Georgia, and is serving as the assistant to the city manager while she completes her degree.



Alesha Mann | Auburn University

Alesha received an undergraduate degree in exercise science from Georgia Southern University. She also completed a master's degree at Auburn University where she studied public administration. She is from Lawrenceville, Georgia. Upon graduation, she plans to start a career in local government.



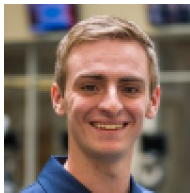
Emma Yourd | University of Pittsburgh

Emma Yourd recently graduated from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs with a Master of Public Administration, focused on urban affairs and planning. Upon graduation, she was honored with the school's Dean's Award, given to the top student in the graduating class. Prior to graduate school, she worked for federal contractors in Washington, D.C., on international development contracts and she received her Bachelor of Arts in economics from Smith College in 2012. She is looking for opportunities to serve communities in the Pittsburgh metropolitan region through community and economic development work.



Dontavious Waller | Georgia Southern University

Dontavious (DJ) Waller is from Eatonton, Georgia, home of the famous Alice Walker. He received a Bachelor of Political Science degree from Georgia Southern University in 2018. He also received a Master of Public Administration degree from Georgia Southern University in 2020 with a concentration in public management. His plans are to become a city/county manager of a large city/county in the near future.



Nicholas Matthews | Georgia Southern University

Nic graduated from Georgia Southern University with a bachelor's degree in political science and a Master of Public Administration degree. Before moving to Statesboro for school, he grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee. After graduation, he is moving to Covington, Georgia, where he will be the downtown coordinator for the city of Covington.



Jon McBrayer | Georgia College & State University

Jon is from Calhoun, Georgia. He received a master's in public administration, a bachelor's in geography, and a certificate in geographic information systems from Georgia College and State University. He currently works for the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission as a GIS specialist. Assisting local governments is his passion, and he truly loves his job.



Luke Atkinson | University of Central Oklahoma

Luke Atkinson graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2010 with a degree in journalism and mass communication. Motivated by his passion for local government, he pursued a master's in public administration at the University of Central Oklahoma, graduating in 2020. Luke is from Enid, Oklahoma, and lives in Oklahoma City. He currently serves as the bond allocations commissioner for Oklahoma City's Ward 6 and is the communications manager for Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center.



Tonisha Hurd | University of Delaware

Originally from Bronx, New York, Tonisha is pursuing a master's in public administration at the University of Delaware and earned a bachelor's degree in public policy. As a McNair Scholar, she is passionate about getting underrepresented students into master and doctoral programs and strives to bring unity and progress to the state of Delaware. Her aspiration is to improve livelihood in impoverished communities and to be a city manager one day.



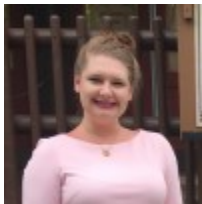
Danielle Littmann | University of Delaware

Although she grew up in Las Vegas before attending college, Danielle now calls Boston home. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in legal studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the Commonwealth Honors College. After receiving her undergraduate degree, she continued her education at the University of Delaware to pursue a Master of Public Administration, where she was honored to be the executive director of the Biden School Journal of Public Policy and co-president of the ICMA Student Chapter. She plans on continuing her passion for local and state government by pursuing a job in public finance after graduating in May 2020.



Simone Adkins | University of Delaware

Simone Adkins is from Montclair, New Jersey, and received a B.A. in public policy with a minor in political science from the University of Delaware in May 2019. In her junior year, she matriculated into the 4+1 MPA program and is graduating with a Master of Public Administration with a specialization in nonprofit management in May 2020. This fall, she will be heading to D.C. to the American University Washington College of Law.



Sarah Warkentin | University of Delaware

Born in Newark, Delaware, Sarah has lived in New Jersey since she was one year old. For her undergrad and graduate studies, she returned to her roots and came to the University of Delaware! She graduated in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in public policy and will be graduating in 2020 with a master of public administration with a concentration in housing policy, community development, and planning. Anyone who has talked to Sarah knows of her great admiration for former President Jimmy Carter, and she would like to give him a shoutout as her role model and guide during her studies. She hopes to find careers where she can positively impact as many people as possible.



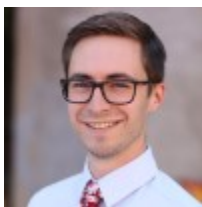
Harrison Fry | Murray State University

Harrison is a Master of Public Administration candidate in Murray State University's College of Humanities and Fine Arts. Originally from South Fulton, Tennessee, he came to the Kentucky college initially for his undergraduate studies, pursuing a focus in management and business administration, graduating in the fall of 2018. Through his graduate program, he served as the ICMA Student Chapter President, a graduate assistant on campus, and as an intern for the Paducah, Kentucky, city manager. Following graduation, Harrison is pursuing career options that will lead to his goal in rural city management and economic development.



Megan Nolde | Virginia Commonwealth University

Megan is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University and Temple University. She holds dual BFAs in art education and printmaking, an MFA in printmaking, and an MPA with a focus in nonprofit management. Hailing from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, she makes Richmond her home now. She hopes to work in local or state government or arts organizations after graduation.



Huell White | Mark O. Hatfield School of Government, Portland State University

Huell completed an undergraduate degree in Russian at Portland State University in 2016. Shortly thereafter, Huell chose to remain in Portland and decided that pursuing a Master of Public Administration degree at PSU's Hatfield School of Government would suit his professional goals best. As he nears graduation, Huell looks forward to continuing to serve the community of Scappoose, Oregon, where he has developed a passion for local government.



Pablo Majano | Central Michigan University

Born in Washington, D.C., Pablo is of the first generation of his family to attend a university. He received his bachelor's degree in urban planning from Michigan State University in 2014. His career began as an intern for East Lansing with the Assessing and Planning Department. For the past three years, he has pursued an MPA from Central Michigan University. He will continue working as a senior redevelopment ready communities planner for the state of Michigan, where helps local municipalities achieve economic success while using best practices to help build capacity. His career goal is to be in a leadership position and/or run for office.



James Kline | Virginia Commonwealth University

James (Jake) Kline is an MPA candidate at Virginia Commonwealth University. Originally from Richmond, Virginia, he graduated from Appalachian State University in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science degree in public relations with a double minor in leadership studies and political science. He serves as a L. Douglas Wilder Scholar with the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC), where his work focuses on analysis of proposed legislation to the Virginia General Assembly as it relates to the VADOC. While pursuing his master's degree, Jake is serving as president of the Public Administration Student Association and is a member of Pi Alpha Alpha and Phi Kappa Phi.



DeMario Johnson | Grand Valley State University

DeMario Johnson is originally from Grand Blanc, Michigan. He transferred to Grand Valley State University in 2016 to receive his Bachelor of Political Science. In 2018, he decided to pursue his Master of Public Administration, in order to fulfill his true calling of

helping those around him. He graduated in the spring of 2020 and plans to pursue a career in local government management.



Kahler Sweeney | Grand Valley State University

Kahler is graduating with his master's in public administration from Grand Valley State University, where he graduated with an undergraduate degree in political science and public administration. Currently, he works as a graduate intern for Ottawa County, Michigan, and serves in the Michigan Army National Guard. His past experiences include studying inclusive economic development practices as a graduate assistant and serving as the president of GVSU's ICMA Graduate Student Chapter. Following graduation, Kahler is eager to continue to pursue public service through a career in local government.



Riya Rajesh | CEPT University, Navrangura, Ahmedabad, India

Riya is a Master of Urban Management Student at CEPT University, Ahmedabad, graduating in May 2020. She served as the chief operating officer and was the founding member of the ICMA Student Chapter at CEPT, which is also the first in India. Originally from Kerala, Riya was brought up in Dubai and returned to India for higher education. Riya received a bachelor's degree in architecture from Mcgans Ooty School of Architecture. She has participated in graduate-level research studying the effectiveness of various participatory spaces in local governance in Kochi, Kerala, and developed guidelines for other states to adopt their model. Post-graduation, Riya will be starting a career with the Urban Management Centre, as a program associate in the Technical Support Unit of National Urban Livelihood Mission in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.



Sylvia Ordeman | University of North Texas

Sylvia is a proud graduate of the Master of Public Administration program with the University of North Texas where she was named a Clarence E. Ridley Scholar by the Texas City Management Association. Sylvia also holds a bachelor's in business administration degree from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Her path on public service began with positions at federal and state government agencies, but it was her time serving her hometown, Brownsville, Texas, that solidified her passion for local government. Starting in June, Sylvia will begin serving as the Town Administrator for the town of Bartonville, TX.



Davianna Monet Humble | University of Kansas

Davianna, from St. Louis, Missouri, is graduating this spring with a Master of Public Administration at the University of Kansas, where she is also a member of Pi Alpha Alpha. In 2018, Davianna graduated from Truman State University with her Bachelor of Arts in political science and a minor in justice systems. After graduation, Davianna will continue her work with Douglas County, Kansas.



Karl Shaddock | Arizona State University

Karl will graduate in May 2020 with an MPA from Arizona State University, where he has served as a Marvin Andrews Fellow and the Vice-President of ASU's ICMA Student Chapter. Before returning to school, Karl worked at the Nebraska Community Foundation and Telluride Foundation – where he helped communities build collective vision, raise opportunity capital, and grow distributed leadership to create the hometown of their dreams. Karl has just begun working for the city of Tucson as the lead data analyst for the Safety and Justice Challenge where he leads data gathering, information sharing, and collaboration efforts to reduce unnecessary jail use to make the community

healthier, fairer, and safer. He is excited to bring his ability to build the confidence, competence, and capacity of individuals and groups to find local solutions to local challenges to the world of local government management.



Logan Peiman | Arizona State University

Logan is a public service and public policy major who is also receiving a certificate in public administration and public management. Originally from Florida, Logan has been admitted into the Master of Public Administration program with a scholarship at Arizona State University, and she will begin this program in fall 2020. Logan plans to work full time while completing her master's degree and dreams of a future where everyone in her community has access to opportunities for increased well-being.



Stella Carr | Arizona State University

Originally from Las Vegas, Stella has been living in Arizona while pursuing her education. She is a graduate of NAU, where she studied environmental sustainability, and a recent graduate of ASU, where she has earned her MPA. Upon graduation, she will be trading in her desert sunshine for snow boots and cold weather, as she takes on a new role as sustainability director for the town of Lexington, Massachusetts.



Thomas Prior | Arizona State University

Thomas is a Master of Public Administration candidate at Arizona State University and serves as president of the ASU-ICMA Student Chapter. As a full-time MPA candidate, Thomas has interned for organizations such as the Alliance for Innovation, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, and the city of Scottsdale, Arizona. After graduation, Thomas

will be relocating to the Washington, D.C., area and hopes to continue working within local government.



Ashley Coles | Virginia Commonwealth University

Ashley is a Master of Public Administration candidate at Virginia Commonwealth University. Originally from Hempstead, New York, Ashley graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science in wildlife conservation. She recently joined the VCU Chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA) Honor Society and was inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi in November of 2019. Ashley aspires to work in local government as a policy analyst post-graduation.



Timothy Morris | Virginia Commonwealth University

Timothy is a Master of Public Administration candidate at Virginia Commonwealth University. Timothy grew up in Ashland, Virginia, and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Mary Washington in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in economics. He has recently begun employment with the Virginia State Corporation Commission's division of Public Utility Regulation as an assistant utility analyst and will remain there for the foreseeable future.



Adam Caldwell | Virginia Commonwealth University

Adam hails from Peekskill, New York, and is an alumnus of Virginia Commonwealth University, earning a Bachelor of Arts and post-baccalaureate certificates in nonprofit and public management. In May 2020, he will receive a master's in public administration from his undergraduate alma mater. After graduation, Caldwell will continue his role as

the director of strategic projects for VCU but hopes to begin supporting Richmond nonprofits with their communication and training needs as a part-time consultant.

Not Pictured:

Adam Vossen |University of Central Oklahoma

Joseph Chidiac |Pepperdine School of Public Policy

Myeisha Williams |Mills College

Patrick Seals |Mills College

Kristina Smith |Mills College

Mackenzie Morton Boone |Mills College

Julie Howell |Mills College

Daniel Mao |Mills College

Jason Wardrup |University of Delaware

December 2019 Recipients

Rebecca Sakyi | Georgia Southern University

Rebecca is a Master of Public Administration candidate in the Department of Public and Nonprofit Studies at Georgia Southern University. Originally from Ghana, Rebecca received her bachelor's degree in Accounting from Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA). Rebecca is currently employed by Georgia Southern University as a Graduate Research Assistant. She works with a professor on a Georgia Municipal Association project collecting data from Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports of cities in Georgia to conduct financial analysis on their performance. After graduation, Rebecca would like to work with a finance department of a local government as a budget analyst.

Jonathan McCoy | Virginia Tech

Jonathan a dual Master of Urban and Regional Planning and Public Administration candidate at Virginia Tech. He is originally from Bedford County, VA near Smith Mountain Lake. He began his undergraduate studies at George Mason University where he earned a degree in Public Administration. Following undergrad, Jonathan served as an AmeriCorps VISTA working to reduce poverty through entrepreneurial development. During his graduate studies, Jonathan worked with Roanoke County Parks, Recreation & Tourism, primarily focusing on greenways and trail development. Post-graduation, Jonathan would like to begin a career in local government consulting.

Spring 2019 Recipients

Brittany Anderson | Virginia Commonwealth University

Brittany is a Master of Public Administration and Nonprofit Management Certificate candidate, and a Graduate Teaching Assistant at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Originally from Chesterfield, VA, Brittany graduated from Howard University in 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and a minor in mathematics. Brittany recently joined the VCU Chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA) Honor Society, the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. Brittany aspires to work in the public sector post-graduation.

Phyllis Anderson | University of Pittsburgh

Phyllis decided to transform her life by going back to school as a non-traditional student. By the time she graduated from the Community College of Allegheny County, she was named “Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges”, Leadership in Honor’s Scholar, and inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. In May 2016, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science. After taking a year off from school, she graduated from the University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) with a Master of Public Policy & Management degree.

Tucker Brofft | Mills College

Tucker is a joint Master of Business Administration and Masters of Public Policy student at Mills College in Oakland, CA. He has served as treasurer of the Mills College ICMA Student Chapter and as a student representative for the Mills College Education Policy Committee. He is a teaching assistant for a research methods course at Mills and also a freelance consultant, working with local governments and nonprofits on program evaluation and organizational efficacy.

Megan Ford | Virginia Commonwealth University

Megan Ford is a Master of Public Administration candidate at Virginia Commonwealth University. Megan graduated with a bachelor’s in psychology from Bridgewater College in 2017, with minors in Neuroscience and Political Science. Megan works as a Government & Partner Relations Strategist with a company focused on helping people in the criminal justice system with substance use disorder.

Ciona Hall | Oakland University

Ciona L. Hall is a Master of Public Administration candidate at Oakland University. She serves as Vice President of Oakland University’s ICMA Student Chapter and is seeking graduation. Ciona works as the permit coordinator with the City of Rochester, Michigan. She works to streamline the workflow for the commercial developments in the city. She credits Oakland University’s ICMA Student Chapter with helping her land her first job in government by attending its first networking event in 2018.

Jenifer Logia | Mills College

Jenifer Logia is a Master of Public Policy candidate at Mills College and currently serves as the treasurer of the ICMA Student Chapter at Mills College. Jenifer grew up in Redwood City, California, and graduated from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) with a bachelor's degree in International Development Studies and Asian American Studies. Jenifer is also an alumnus of the County of San Mateo Management Fellowship program.

Auria Malachowski | University of Central Florida

Auria Malachowski is graduating this Spring with her Master of Public Administration and Master of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Florida degrees. Auria graduated from UCF with her Bachelor of Science in criminal justice, minor in Spanish, and certificates in leadership studies and security management. Auria has participated in graduate-level research studying the success of priority-based budgeting in local government. Currently, Auria serves as the Chair of Public Relations and Outreach for the UCF Graduate Student Association. In addition to receiving this Early Career Service Certificate for her collaboration on a strategic planning project in the community, Auria is a 2019 [Local Government Management Fellowship](#) (LGMF) fellow at the Sarasota County Government.

Danielle Metcalfe | University of Delaware

Danielle Metcalfe is a Public Administration Fellow at the Institute for Public Administration and graduating senior of University of Delaware's MPA program. Originally from Carmichaels, Pennsylvania, Danielle is an Air Force veteran, serving for 8 years as a C-17 Hydraulic Mechanic and then a Flight Engineer on C-5's. Danielle currently serves as the founding President of University of Delaware's ICMA Student chapter. She will be starting her first City Manager position post-graduation on June 3rd in Delaware City, Delaware.

Nalisha Nandkumar | St. Cloud State University

Nalisha Nandkumar is a Master of Public Administration candidate at St. Cloud State University. Nalisha graduated from St. Cloud State University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication Studies and a minor in Spanish. She has served as the Graduate Assistant for the President's Office at St. Cloud State, focusing on academic policy development. Nalisha has worked at the City of Sartell as an Administrative Assistant which allowed her to develop skills in accounting and citizen engagement. Her work experience also includes working as an Administrative Intern at Stearns County

where she worked closely with the Assistant County Administrator on budgeting projects. She currently works as the assistant to the city administrator and parks and recreation supervisor at the City of Falcon Heights.

Jessica Ohree | Virginia Commonwealth University

Jessica Ohree is a Master of Public Administration candidate at Virginia Commonwealth University. Originally from Richmond, Virginia, Jessica graduated from VCU in 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts in political science. Jessica is active in her local community, volunteering often with several organizations and participating in the City of Richmond's Chamber of Commerce young professionals' program.

Elizabeth (Betsey) Suchanic | University of Delaware

Elizabeth (Betsey) Suchanic is a Public Administration Fellow and Master of Public Administration candidate at the University of Delaware. Originally from the suburbs of Philadelphia, PA, Betsey received her undergraduate degree from Mary Baldwin University in Marketing Communication and Studio Art. Betsey is an active member in University of Delaware's ICMA Student Chapter. Her research for the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) was used to develop the '[The Delaware Complete Communities Toolbox](#),' an online resource of urban planning tools for local governments.

Tom Van Koughnett | Oakland University

Tom Van Koughnett is a Master of Public Administration candidate at Oakland University, where he is also a member of Pi Alpha Alpha. In 2006, Tom graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Biology. Tom currently works as a Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) administrator at Oakland County. After over 10 years of law enforcement experience, Tom is looking to transition to a local government management position.

Jessica Wawrzynski | Oakland University

Jessica Wawrzynski is a Master of Public Administration candidate at Oakland University from Sterling Heights, Michigan. Jessica graduated from Oakland University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in public administration, with a minor in international relations.

Jessica served as Vice President of Oakland University's ICMA Student Chapter in 2017 during its first year of implementation. Jessica has been with the City of Rochester, MI since August 2016, assuming her current role as Deputy City Clerk in February 2017.

Not Pictured:

Sarah McCracken | University of North Texas

Ingrid Rivera | Mills College