

Class of 2022

Rutgers-Eagleton Washington Internship Award Recipients

Rutgers University – New Brunswick

Wood Lawn, Douglass Campus
New Brunswick, NJ
eagleton.rutgers.edu



Tonanziht Aguas
Rutgers-New Brunswick
Class of 2022

Tonanziht Aguas is a rising senior at Rutgers University-Newark majoring in Economics and Political Science. She is also a member of the RU-N Honors College. This summer, Tonanziht is interning as a Higher Education Policy intern with New America’s Education Policy program. She looks forward to furthering New America’s vision of equitable access to education for all.



Sheaa Amin
Rutgers-New Brunswick
Class of 2024

Sheaa Amin is a rising junior at Rutgers University - New Brunswick majoring in Political Science and Mathematics with minors in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Music. She is excited to be interning with APIA Vote in Washington D.C. this summer with the support of the Eagleton Institute of Politics. At Rutgers, she has been involved as a Changemaking Mentor in Residence for the Honors College Douglass Community, and currently serves as a Resident Assistant. She is a Lloyd C. Gardener Fellow at the School of Arts and Sciences, and a Leadership Scholar at the Institute for Women’s Leadership, where she is completing her social action project on gender-based inequities in the service industry. Her interests lie in women’s issues, labor policy, and using data to drive decision making. Upon graduation, she intends to work in legislative affairs before pursuing her Master’s in Public Policy.



Amanda Chen
Rutgers-New Brunswick
Class of 2023

Born and raised in Parsippany, New Jersey, Amanda Chen is a rising senior in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program, majoring in Political Science and Women’s and Gender Studies. Amanda recently co-authored an academic paper with Professor McCabe about political discussion in online spaces, which was published in *New Media & Society*. Last October, she traveled to Seattle to present this paper at the 2021 American Political Science Association’s Annual Meeting. Amanda is an active leader in the Honors Program and serves on the Student Advisory Board, as a Peer Leader, and as an Honors Ambassador. As the president of the Douglass Residential College Rainbow Pines and a member of the Dean’s Diversity Board, she is also currently advocating for the safe inclusion of gender minority students within the Douglass community. Amanda is a Lloyd C. Gardner Fellow, and she recently completed an independent research project concerning federalism’s impact on major social policies in the United States and Brazil. As a recent graduate of the Institute for Women’s Leadership Scholars Certificate Program, Amanda organized a social action project to revise current Title IX regulations. Previously, Amanda completed an internship at the Center for Violence Against Women and Children and will co-author a paper about campus sexual violence climate tools and surveys. Last summer, Amanda pursued her interests in public policy and higher education through an internship at the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. Outside of academia, Amanda enjoys baking for her friends and family, sewing her own clothes, and listening to music. Amanda is delighted to step into her role as Government Relations intern at the National Organization for Women this summer, and she is beyond grateful for the assistance the Rutgers-Eagleton Washington Internship Award has provided in allowing her to continue working towards her aspirations of becoming a researcher and professor whose work will one-day influence public policy.



Jacob Irving
Rutgers-New Brunswick
Class of 2023

Jake Irving is a rising senior from Montgomery, New Jersey, double majoring in Political Science and Philosophy at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. He is a member of the Rutgers Club Field Hockey and Basketball teams and recently participated in the Jewish faith-based National Hillel Basketball Tournament. This summer, Jake will be interning in the D.C. office of 1st District New Jersey Congressman Donald Norcross. Jake will pursue his interests in Labor and Opioid Policy while supporting senior legislative staff. He previously interned with New Jersey Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson and plans on attending law school after receiving his undergraduate degree. Jake hopes to leverage a law degree to pursue a career in public service and eventually return to Washington, D.C.



Garima KC
Rutgers-New Brunswick
Class of 2023

Garima KC is a rising senior at the School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University-New Brunswick. She is pursuing a degree in political science, with a minor in women's, gender, and sexuality studies. Her academic interests lie in American politics, the judiciary, and gender & politics. As one of the 2022 Rutgers-Eagleton Washington Internship awardees, Garima will begin her legislative internship at the Office of Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12). She is thrilled to work in the fast-paced, exciting environment that the Hill offers, where she is looking forward to contributing to serving the people of the twelfth district. In addition, this past academic year, she was a Darien student and an Aresty research assistant on the Young Elected Leaders Project, conducting research on young adults' political representation and leadership experience nationwide. She also serves as a legislative aide to Hudson County Commissioner Yraida Aponte-Lipski. Garima has been involved in several local and congressional campaigns and nonprofits, championing voting rights for people from underserved communities. She is a 2021 Harvard Public Policy and Leadership Conference fellow and a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society. After graduation, she plans to attend law school and contribute toward making meaningful change at the intersection of gender, law, and policy. Over the course of her internship in D.C., Garima hopes to further grow an appreciation for American ideals and elevate her passion for protecting democracy.



Fiona Kniaz
Rutgers-New Brunswick
Class of 2022

Fiona Kniaz is a recent graduate of Rutgers University's Honors College, with degrees in political science and economics and minors in international & global studies and Russian. She graduated summa cum laude and is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Sigma Alpha, and Omicron Delta Epsilon national honor societies, Cap and Skull, and the Eagleton Undergraduate Associate Class of 2022. This summer, Fiona is interning with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) as a policy intern in the Office of Government Relations. Prior to her work with AAAS, Fiona held internships working on higher education policy with Rutgers University's Office of Federal Relations and the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) and on economic policy with Blue Haven Initiative. Fiona also played a key role in the research and creation of RU Voting National, a microsite aimed at giving young people and college students the tools to vote nationwide. During the 2020-2021 academic year, she was the recipient of the John and Ann Holt Endowed Undergraduate Applied Research Fund and published a report with the Eagleton Institute of Politics on the partisan implications of nationwide redistricting processes and policy reforms. She utilized her expertise on redistricting standards to assist in the drawing of a fair congressional map for the state of New Jersey as an intern for the counsel to the Chair of the Congressional Redistricting Commission and was recently recognized as a Making Democracy Work honoree by the New Jersey League of Women Voters for her work. In the fall, Fiona will begin her graduate studies, pursuing an MPhil in Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge before embarking on a Ph.D. in political science.



Brittany Ledger
Rutgers-Camden
Class of 2022

Brittany Ledger graduated in May of 2022 from Rutgers University-Camden with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and minors in Criminal Justice and Legal Studies. Last year, she was a student advocate with the Rutgers Office of Federal Relations' Advocacy Corp Program. As an Advocacy Corp member she promoted federal financial aid reform to Congress members and their staff. This summer she will be interning with Congressman Donald Norcross in his Washington, D.C. office focused on Education and Healthcare issues. After completing her internship, she hopes to continue working in Washington, D.C. as a staff assistant to a congress member. Brittany is overjoyed at the opportunity to have experience in both the district office and DC office for a member of Congress.



Brooke Margolin
Rutgers-New Brunswick
Class of 2022

Brooke Margolin is in her final year at the Rutgers School of Public Health obtaining her Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology where she will be a Graduate Fellow at the Eagleton Institute of Politics. This May, she graduated from Rutgers University – New Brunswick's School of Environmental and Biological Sciences' Honors Program and Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy Magna Cum Laude with Highest Departmental Honors with a major in Public Health, minors in Political Science and Women's & Gender Studies, and certificates in Global Health & Health Policy and Health Disparities. Brooke is the 2022 recipient of the Bloustein School's Governor James J. Florio Public Service Award. She is passionate about health policy, specifically working to eliminate inequities through increased public health infrastructure to improve the health outcomes of marginalized communities domestically. During her undergraduate education, Brooke was a G.H. Cook Honors Scholar, Eagleton Undergraduate Associate, Ralph W. Voorhees Public Service Fellow, and Rutgers Scholar at the Intelligence Community – Center for Academic Excellence. On campus, Brooke currently serves as the President of the Rutgers Global Health Institute's Student Council and previously served as a Student Advisory Panel Member of the Rutgers University Climate Task Force, Vice President of Triota – National Women's & Gender Studies Honor Society, and member of Eta Sigma Gamma – National Health Education Honor Society. Brooke has been involved with the Eagleton Institute of Politics' Center on the American Governor, Center for Youth Political Participation, and Miller Center for Community Protection & Resilience in student researcher roles. Professionally, Brooke has worked at Boston Children's Hospital, GlobeMed Headquarters, New Brunswick Development Corporation, Office of Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06), and Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. This summer, as part of the Rutgers-Eagleton Washington Internship Award, Brooke will be interning at the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in the Majority Office.



Kemani Scott
Rutgers-New Brunswick
Class of 2023

Kemani Scott is a lifelong New Jersey resident and a rising senior at Rutgers University studying Political Science and Criminal Justice. This summer, Kemani will be working with Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman from New Jersey's 12th Congressional District. Kemani found his passion for politics and public service from seeing how much one person can have such a positive impact on entire communities after seeing various members of his family spend their whole lives in the public sector. Kemani intends on using this opportunity to grow as a public servant, advocate for marginalized communities, and work on behalf of his fellow New Jersey residents.

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