

**Class of 2023**

# **Rutgers-Eagleton Washington Internship Award Recipients**



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**Rutgers University – New Brunswick**

Wood Lawn, Douglass Campus

New Brunswick, NJ

[eagleton.rutgers.edu](http://eagleton.rutgers.edu)



**Matthew Brodsky**  
Rutgers University-Camden  
Internship Placement: Office of Congressman Greg Casar (D-TX-35)

Matthew is a rising senior in the College of Arts Sciences and Honors College at Rutgers University-Camden. He is currently majoring in Political Science with minors in Philosophy and Urban Studies. Matthew is from Sicklerville, New Jersey and is interning with Congressman Greg Casar (TX-35) office. Congressman Greg Casar worked as a labor organizer in Austin, Texas and his role in the progressive caucus were some of the main reasons Matthew chose to apply for Congressman Casar's office. Matthew is looking forward to the opportunities to meet people working in different roles in Washington, D.C. and helping contribute to the office in any way that he can.

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**Zoe Byham**  
Rutgers University-New Brunswick  
Internship Placement: US Department of Transportation

Zoe Byham is a senior in the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS) at Rutgers - New Brunswick majoring in Environmental Policy, Institutions, & Behaviors and minoring in Political Science. She grew up in Voorhees, New Jersey and now lives in Ocean County. Zoe is interning with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) in the Office of the Secretary working on sustainability issues. Zoe is passionate about climate action and sustainability. After her internship with Senator Cory Booker in his Camden office last summer, she became interested in the field of transportation and wanted to combine her interest in the environment with transportation. Since she had previously interned at the Senate, Zoe wanted to explore how federal agencies operate and deal with sustainability and climate action. Zoe was extremely interested in working in Washington, D.C. and was thrilled to have an opportunity to intern at DOT in person.



**Gabriel Garcia**

Rutgers University-New Brunswick  
Internship Placement: Office of Congressman Robert Menendez, Jr.  
(D-NJ-8)

Gabriel Garcia is a 2023 graduate from Rutgers University-New Brunswick where he has just earned a degree in Political Science and Economics. He is originally from North Bergen, New Jersey and is proud to be representing his home district through an internship in Congressman Rob Menendez Jr.'s D.C. office. As an Eagleton Undergraduate Associate during his time at Rutgers, Gabriel learned the value of legislation and proper representation at the federal level, therefore he is thrilled to learn more about and work towards the federal representation of New Jersey's 8th Congressional District. Gabriel is primarily interested in interning at Menendez Jr.'s office not only because it's his own district of course but also because as a child of Dominican immigrants, there's no better New Jersey congressional office to learn from than the office that has had a Latino elected leader for 30 years. Congressman Menendez Jr.'s placement on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is also of great interest to Gabriel as he wishes to expand his knowledge on transportation policy as well as higher education, urban planning, and labor policy.



**Rees Hagler**

Rutgers University-New Brunswick  
Internship Placement: US Department of Commerce

Originally from Colorado Springs, Colorado, Rees Hagler is a rising senior at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. She studies in the School of Arts and Sciences and the Rutgers Honors College. Rees is double-majoring in Economics and Spanish and double-minoring in Political Science and International and Global Studies. This summer, Rees is interning at the Department of Commerce in the Economic Development Administration. She is excited to be working on the Disaster Recovery and Resilience Team and gaining first-hand experience with economic policy. Rees is thrilled to spend the summer exploring careers in public service and working towards her ultimate goal of employing economics to contribute to tangible positive change.



**Ayush Nallapally**

Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Internship Placement: Office of Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA-20)

Ayush Nallapally is a political science major studying at the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers-New Brunswick. Ayush has been working with Representative Chris Smith of New Jersey this summer, and will be working for Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy. Ayush chose these placements because of to passion for New Jersey politics and the unique opportunity to work in House Leadership.



**Ayana Tapper**

Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Internship Placement: ResearchEd

Ayana Tapper graduated with honors from Rutgers University-New Brunswick this spring, earning a B.A. in Political Science and History. Among her school accolades, she graduated from the 2023 cohort of the Eagleton Undergraduate Associates program. There she studied American politics and government for a year and a half before earning a certificate in Political Science and becoming a class representative. Additionally, Ayana became an inducted Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society member and has two published poetry submissions in the Rutgers Writer’s House Review. While at Rutgers, she interned as an Aresty Research Assistant before completing another in the Rutgers Summer Service Initiatives inaugural cohort. In her working life, Ayana has served two 501c3 nonprofits in roles that help foster equity among marginalized individuals. As an award winner of the Rutgers-Eagleton Washington Internship Award program, Ayana moved from her hometown of West Orange to Maryland to intern for ResearchEd. The nonprofit provides research, data support, and other advocacy-related services to postsecondary institutions seeking to support educational equity and student success. In one of her previous roles, Ayana worked in educational equity and chose to work at ResearchEd to learn more about educational advocacy. Finally, her future plans include law school to use her degree to serve marginalized communities.



**Zachariyah Uddin**  
Rutgers University-Newark  
Internship Placement: National Labor Relations Board

Zachariyah (Zach) Uddin is a senior at Rutgers University- Newark studying Public and Nonprofit Management and minoring in Political Science at the Honors Living Learning Community. Zach's time in the School of Public Affairs and Administration and the political school greatly inspired his interest in public service and fighting for the rights of the voiceless. When Zach applied for the Rutgers-Eagleton Washington Internship Award Program, he saw it as a great opportunity to pursue his passion for public service. The Rutgers-Eagleton Washington Internship Award provides him with not only a great internship opportunity but financial support to cover the cost of living in the nation's capital where policy and political decisions are made at the national level. Zach will be interning this summer at the National Labor Relations Board and is very excited about this opportunity; he looks forward to the hands-on learning experience at a government agency where he is able to put theory into practice. Zach is on a mission to obtain a career in advocacy and he feels very strongly that this opportunity is a great start.

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**Madison Verdone**  
Rutgers University-New Brunswick  
Internship Placement: Office of of Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ-12)

Madison Verdone, a resident of Collingswood, NJ, is an Honors Program student in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers New-Brunswick, double majoring in Political Science and Philosophy with a minor in Law and History. This summer Maddy is interning for Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman in her Washington, D.C. office. Maddy is excited to intern for the Congresswoman as she promotes progressive legislation with focuses on racial justice, economic justice, and the advancement of black women and girls.

On campus Maddy serves as the President of the Rutgers Democrats as well as the Networking Chair for the Women's Pre-Law Society. During her time at Rutgers, Maddy worked on Governor Murphy's re-election campaign, and later interned for Governor Murphy's Communications Office. She also was a policy intern at the New Jersey Senate Majority Office. Outside of Rutgers she is a server at Sabrina's Cafe as well as an avid reader and runner. After graduation she hopes to work in government for a few years before applying to law school.

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