

Former Oregon Governor and Pritzker Fellow Kate Brown discusses local, state and national politics with Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer.



# Fall 2023 Board of Advisors Report





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 04** A Message from Heidi
- 05** By the Numbers
- 06** IOP 24
- 08** Speaker Series
- 14** Civic Engagement
- 18** Career Development
- 25** Pritzker Fellows
- 32** Policy Challenge



Students stop by one of our student group tables during our annual welcome event, Politipalooza.



**The nonpartisan Institute of Politics is committed to inspiring in our students a passion for public service, meaningful dialogue and active engagement in our democracy.**



Students visit the IOP house during Politipalooza.





# Inspiring thought. *Empowering action.*

I knew the Institute of Politics was a special place when David Axelrod asked me to come on as Institute director over a year ago. It was bittersweet for him but invigorating for me.

I knew I was stepping into a role where I'd get to see firsthand how talented and bright our students are. But I wasn't fully prepared for where the next several months would take me.

We started off this school year with a thousand students jammed into the IOP backyard for our annual Politipalooza celebration – the biggest one yet!

We put together one of the strongest Pritzker Fellows cohorts we've ever had with two former governors, a U.S. congresswoman, a top-notch conservative strategist, a trans-rights advocate and even a hip-hop activist.

Our internship program is on track to place more than 300 students in public service internships around the country and across the world, and our Speaker Series continues to keep us in the conversation as one of the finest centers for free expression and a world-class forum for confronting the most pressing issues we face in the country and the world.

Between now and November, we're poised to further set ourselves apart with IOP 24 – a suite of programming providing students with the tools to make better sense of the issues or get involved in the 2024 elections, either working on a campaign or running for office themselves.

The IOP is truly an amazing place. For that, we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the University of Chicago, our Board of Advisors, our staff but most of all our students.

Our student leaders challenge each other every day. They push each other to be more thoughtful, they inspire each other to be more creative and they call on us to stay true to our mission.

## **Heidi Heitkamp**

Director, University of Chicago Institute of Politics

IOP Director Heidi Heitkamp discusses the importance of free speech and respectful dialogue at the launch of The Chicago Forum for Free Inquiry and Expression.





# By the Numbers

---

## 2,566

Students reached through IOP programming

### Voter Registration

**1,642** students taught how to register to vote

## 323

Highly engaged students with Civic Engagement programming

## 300+

Students placed in public service internships around the world

Students visit the IOP house during Politipalooza.



# IOP 24

## All Things Elections

IOP 24 is a suite of programming and internship opportunities designed for all students — from those casually interested in the 2024 elections to those seeking to work on a campaign, support a cause or run for office themselves.



## FELLOWS SEMINARS

Fall Pritzker Fellow **Jeff Larson**, who ran the 2016 Republican National Convention, walked students through how the parties pick their nominees.



## ASK HEIDI/ASK DAVID

Current and former IOP directors **Heidi Heitkamp & David Axelrod** will hold office hours to mentor students interested in running for office or working on campaigns.



## SUPER TUESDAY WORKSHOPS

We're hosting a series of workshops and special office hours for students interested in working on campaigns or running for office themselves. This fall, the theme of our workshops was **"Know Your Why,"** with our guests helping our students to unpack their motivations for getting into politics.



## IOWA TREK

20 students were chosen out of 81 applicants to join IOP staff on a three-day trip to the state that makes or breaks presidential campaigns for a rare chance to witness the Iowa Caucuses first-hand.

## UCHIVOTES & NONPARTISAN VOTER ENGAGEMENT

IOP students are getting out the vote through **UChiVotes** — our student-led, nonpartisan initiative created to boost voter turnout on campus — and our student-led **voter education workshops at Cook County Jail**.



## THE DNC AND RNC CONVENTIONS

Summer 2024, we're putting students at the center of U.S. politics through **intensive internships**, volunteer opportunities, and treks to the conventions. In late November, we launched our summer internship applications, which include election-related opportunities with media organizations, consulting firms and advocacy groups.



# SUPER TUESDAY WORKSHOPS

**Candid Career Advice with Gov. JB Pritzker Chief of Staff Anne Caprera**



**Winning Over Voters Across the Aisle with former Gov. Larry Hogan**



**Pitching Yourself as a Candidate with Republican Consultant Jeff Larson**



**Running for Office as a Woman with Heidi Heitkamp & former Gov. Kate Brown**



**Running for Office in Your 20s with UChicago Alumni Christian Mitchell & Adam Zabner**



## In Their Own Words

“As a first-year student, I have found Super Tuesdays at the IOP incredible experiences – both in that they were clearly and efficiently laid out to be understood, but also as an extraordinary introduction into the IOP due to the clear passion and expertise shown by the guests. I have loved the ability to dive deeper into topics that intrigue me but also have found within these Super Tuesday sessions new matters and concepts to consider. I’ve found that the Super Tuesdays have not only deeply enriched my understanding of politics, but they have also pushed me to consider my aspirations in my career and journey.”

**Autumn Rivera AB '27**



A photograph of Bill Barr, former U.S. Attorney General, speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a blue patterned tie. He has grey hair and wears glasses. His hands are clasped in front of him. The background features a red banner with the text "Inspiring thought" and "Empowering action", and a white banner with the "UChicago Politics" logo and "INSTITUTE OF POLITICS".

## Speaker Series

Former U.S. Attorney General Bill Barr discusses his time serving with former President Donald Trump.



**The Speaker Series** aims to host conversations that hit our students' expressed areas of interest and current developments in the world of politics and public policy.

We began the fall with an examination of the legal woes facing former President Donald Trump that featured **former White House attorney Ty Cobb**. Setting the stage for the 2024 election cycle, IOP founding Director **David Axelrod** hosted a conversation featuring The New York Times columnist **David French**, political analyst **David Wasserman**, NPR's **Susan Davis** and political commentator **Bakari Sellers**.

Other distinguished guests included Illinois **Governor JB Pritzker**, Michigan **Governor Gretchen Whitmer**, former **U.S. Attorney General Bill Barr**, Rockefeller Foundation president **Rajiv Shah**, author **McKay Coppins** and former White House aide **Cassidy Hutchinson**.

Throughout the quarter, Speaker Series events tackled many of the issues facing the nation and world today: from the fight over America's funding of the war in Ukraine, democracy in Africa and recent labor union actions to conversations about anti-trans legislation and the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Student-led event committees explored US-China relations, the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong and a proposal in Chicago's city council to tax the rich to address homelessness.



Mvemba Phezo-Dizolele from the Center for Strategic and International Studies discusses African democracy.



Students introduce speakers (top) and ask questions (bottom) at an event.



Illinois Governor JB Pritzker shakes hands with guests after an event.



# Calendar of Events

Fall Quarter 2023

## Meet the Fall 2023 Pritzker Fellows



Fall 2023 Pritzker Fellows Larry Hogan, former Governor of Maryland; Kate Brown, former Governor of Oregon; Jeff Larson, Republican Political Consultant; Rhymefest, Rapper & Advocate; Stephanie Murphy, former U.S. Rep (D-FL); Chase Strangio, Deputy Director of Trans Justice at the ACLU; IOP Director Heidi Heitkamp (left to right)

## Trump's Legal Woes: What's the Skinny From Those In the Know



IOP Director Heidi Heitkamp; William Baude, UChicago Law Professor; Ty Cobb, former Trump White House Attorney; Jennifer Taub, legal scholar and white collar crime expert (left to right)

## Election Preview with David Axelrod



David Axelrod, IOP Founding Director; Susan Davis, NPR Political Correspondent; David French, New York Times columnist; David Wasserman, Cook Political Report senior editor; Bakari Sellers, CNN (left to right)

## JB Pritzker: Progressive Governorship



Sabrina Siddiqui, Wall Street Journal White House reporter; JB Pritzker, Democratic Governor of Illinois (left to right)

## New Faces of Labor: From the Hollywood Writers Room to Staten Island Amazon Warehouses



Anna Galland, former MoveOn executive director; Shep Searl, Chicago-based Starbucks worker and union leader; James Schamus, Writers Guild of America negotiating member; Bob Reiter, Chicago Federation of Labor President (left to right)

## Should the U.S. Support Ukraine?



Adrian Perkins, former mayor of Shreveport, LA, and former IOP Pritzker Fellow; Jennifer Steinhauer, senior director of the Speaker Series & Pritzker Fellows Program; Dan Caldwell, Center for Renewing America vice president (left to right)



## Politics, Policy & Pragmatism: An Hour with Governor Gretchen Whitmer



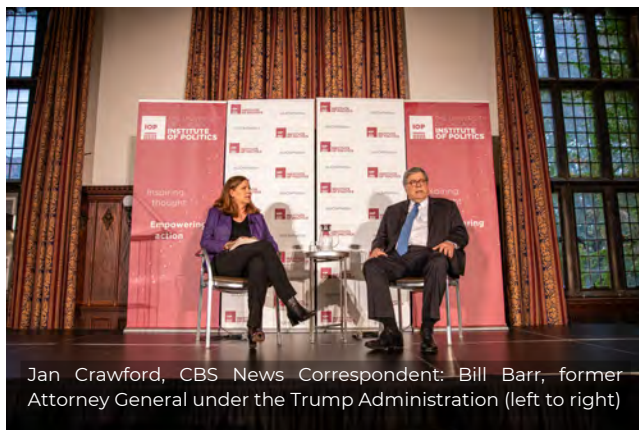
Kate Brown, former Democratic Governor of Oregon and IOP Pritzker Fellow; Gretchen Whitmer, Democratic Governor of Michigan (left to right)

## Risk, Failure & Big Bets: Two Leaders Explore How To Change the World



Paul Alivisatos, President of The University of Chicago; Rajiv Shah, Rockefeller Foundation President (left to right)

## Former Attorney General Bill Barr: His Journey and the Law



Jan Crawford, CBS News Correspondent; Bill Barr, former Attorney General under the Trump Administration (left to right)

## African Democracy in the Balance



Mvemba Phezo Dizelele, the Center for Strategic and International Studies; Yinka Adegoke, Semafor Africa reporter; Geeta Pasi, former US Ambassador to Djibouti; James Robinson, director of the Pearson Institute (left to right)

## International Policy Program: The State of U.S. China Relations



Ryan Hass, director of the John L. Thornton China Center and Senior Foreign Policy Fellow; Seth Poling AB '26 (left to right)

## Mitt Romney's Truth: A Conversation Between McKay Coppins & David Axelrod



McKay Coppins, Author of *Romney: A Reckoning*; David Axelrod, IOP Founder (left to right)



## Anti Trans Politics: How We Got Here & Where We Are Going



Hanna Rosin, *The Atlantic* reporter; Andrew Flores, American University professor; Chase Strangio, ACLU; Jennifer Williams, Trenton City councilwoman (left to right)

## Among the Braves: A Narrative History of Hong Kong's Pro- Democracy Movement



Timothy McLaughlin, *The Atlantic*; Shibani Mahtani, *The Washington Post* (left to right)

## Cassidy Hutchinson: Her Time In the White House and Its Costs



Cassidy Hutchinson, former top aide to Mark Meadows - Trump's former Chief of Staff; Stephanie Murphy, former U.S. Rep. (D-FL) and IOP Pritzker Fellow (left to right)

## Israel, Palestine & Gaza: A Painful Inflection Point



Jennifer Steinhauer, senior director of the Speaker Series & Pritzker Fellows Program; Arie Dubnov, George Washington University history professor; Laila el-Haddad, Palestinian author and social activist from Gaza; Yusef Munayyer, writer and political analyst; Roberto Mazza, historian and executive director of the Jerusalem Quarterly (left to right)

## Tax the Rich, End Homelessness? Chicago's New Proposal to Combat Housing Insecurity



Infiniti Gant, South Shore based housing advocacy organization "Not Me We"



# In Their Own Words



“As a UChicago student interested in policy and politics, the IOP plays a big role in my life and my experience on campus. Specifically, I enjoy attending Speaker Series Events as a way to broaden my political interests and learn from experts and leaders in their given fields. The Institute of Politics always has amazing events, and I am so glad I can utilize them as a resource. Additionally, I was involved with the IOP student groups W+ and Leaders of Color last year. In these two groups, I met people who were interested in some of the same topics I was, but were also pursuing their own unique interests and career paths. I currently serve as an event ambassador and a W+ Winter Institute planner. I enjoy being in these roles as I have already learned so many new skills within event designing and execution. The IOP has overall been a great place to meet individuals who are also committed to educating, learning, and engaging in activism, policy change, and political discussion. I continue to learn from peers, mentors, and speakers.

Although I have enjoyed all the speaker events, my favorite has been the event “A Woman’s Place is in the House: A Conversation with Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi.” This event was my favorite because not only was Speaker Pelosi an engaging speaker who made many great points throughout the discussion, but I also got to meet her before the event! She is a huge inspiration of mine, so it was such an exciting moment. Being a part of W+, I have a particular interest in increasing female representation in politics, and this was a topic that Speaker Pelosi discussed a lot during the event. I appreciated hearing her perspectives on the major shifts in Congress within the last few decades, the future of women in politics, and how to preserve democracy in the upcoming years.”

**Meghana Halbe, AB ‘26**





# THE RESURRECTION PROJECT

## Civic Engagement



Christian Johns (MPP '24) leads a trek examining the recent influx of migrants into Chicago while stopping at The Resurrection Project.



## Fall Quarter Highlights

This year, the Civic Engagement team kicked off the year intentionally focused on connecting our students to Chicago. We started the year with a four-day intensive program on social and political issues in Chicago with our **Chicago Bound** cohort. Chicago Bound helps 30 students build civic engagement tools through two service projects with local nonprofits. This year's cohort also met with Pritzker Fellow **Che “Rhymefest” Smith**. The Civic Engagement team also partnered with UChicago's Center for Effective Government to host **two local treks on migrants and the city budget**. Each trek was comprised of 20 students with both serving as opportunities for students to learn about Chicago, interact with local journalists, elected leaders, and nonprofit advocates, and find ways to embed themselves in civic and political work.

## Civic Engagement Student Groups

Our student groups enjoyed unprecedented success this fall. **TechTeam**, our student group focused on the intersection of civic engagement and technology, currently has 75 students working on tech-related projects for nonprofits and another 40 students developing programming skills to serve on future projects.

Also, this fall, students volunteering in jails and youth detention centers as part of our **Bridge program**, have recruited more than 40 other students with more expected to join in the winter and spring quarters to scale up the voter education and creative writing workshops they run at Cook County Jail and other detention centers.



First-years participate in Chicago Bound, a pre-orientation program.



Rapper, activist and Pritzker Fellow Rhymefest meets with Chicago Bound participants.



Students visit the IOP's backyard during Politipalooza.



# In Their Own Words



“Civic Engagement programming at the IOP this fall has allowed me to focus on voter engagement work as part of UChiVotes. Last year we were focused on the midterms and the municipal elections and we were constantly moving from one election cycle to the next. This fall we’re focused on building a robust organizing team going into the 2024 elections and building a coalition of partner organizations to increase registration and voting on campus.

Civic engagement at the IOP has provided a unique opportunity to develop practical political leadership skills. While there are many places across campus where students can acquire knowledge about politics, the IOP Civic Engagement programming is one of the few spaces where I can apply that knowledge to make substantive change. Through IOP civic engagement, I have gained valuable leadership, political organizing, and strategic planning skills. Additionally, being able to see the direct impact my work is having like having a short conversation with someone at a UChiVotes table and seeing them register to vote in front of me, has reinforced my passion for public service, as I can see how even the most minor actions can make a difference.”

**Shannon Dye, AB ‘25**



# In Their Own Words

“I got involved with *The Gate* as a Junior Writer during my first year and now work as co-editor-in-chief. As I began college, I had always been interested in writing and was looking for a way to use my love for writing in a more public-facing career. Since then, I looked for every opportunity to do journalism. I’ve particularly enjoyed the chance to freelance for *South Side Weekly*, conduct research and interviews for journalist Elly Fishman – a long-form feature writer whom I greatly admire – and report on reproductive rights as a writing fellow with *The Nation*. Through it all, reporting for *The Gate*, editing the work of other student journalists, and encouraging young writers to develop their journalistic voice has been incredibly rewarding.

The IOP is a space where I have always felt welcomed and strive to do the same for others. I’ve spoken to numerous professional journalists who have inspired me and continued to hone my reporting interests. I think student journalism is essential to developing the reporting skills you can’t learn in the classroom, and I can’t imagine a better place to have learned those skills than *The Gate*.”

**Molly Morrow, AB ‘24**





# Career Development

Nina Hafner (AB '24) visits the AFL-CIO during a career development trek to Washington, D.C.





Students share their experiences interning at the White House with their peers during one of the IOP's career development workshops.

**This past summer, the Career Development team placed 300-plus students in public service internships across the country and around the world, including at the U.S. Department of State, with several members of the U.S. Congress, the American Enterprise Institute, the Aspen Institute, foreign embassies, the Hoover Institute, the Latino Policy Forum, ABC News and more.**

- Students worked with **230 summer internship employer partners** in 2023 nationwide and overseas, with more than 100 students working in Chicago and nearly 70 students interning in Washington, D.C.
- This academic year, the IOP will support **more than 69 paid internships in and around Chicago**, including Chicago Public Media WBEZ, League of Women Voters, Chicago Mayor's Office, Chicago Public Schools, Consulate General of Mexico, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of U.S. Rep. Jonathan Jackson, and the Illinois Policy Institute.
- IOP Career Development staff and interns have hosted multiple **career workshops** during the fall 2023 academic quarter focused on preparing students to apply for summer internships and enhance their resumes, cover letters, and networking skills. Staff and interns will also have had more than **50 individualized, one-on-one career advising sessions** lasting 30 minutes in length with undergraduate and graduate students during the fall 2023 academic quarter.
- The IOP will return to **Washington, D.C.** for a winter break trek with 25 students to explore career opportunities by engaging with elected officials and staff, journalists, and think tank policy experts. Students will also interact with alums and friends of the IOP at a holiday reception in the offices of IOP board member Ed Gillespie.



# 2023 Summer Internships

## Elected and Political Office

- Alex Bores NY State Assembly Office
- Chicago Mayor's Office of Business, Economic & Neighborhood Development
- City of Chicago Treasurer
- Executive Office of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer
- Kane County Government
- New Democrat Coalition
- Office of Illinois State Rep. Kimberly du Buclet
- Office of Illinois State Rep. Lindsey LaPointe
- Office of Illinois State Sen. Robert Peters Office
- Office of US Rep. Brad Wenstrup
- Office of US Rep. Jonathan Jackson
- Office of US Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi
- Office of US Sen. Chris Murphy
- Office of US Sen. Chuck Schumer
- Office of US Sen. Richard Blumenthal
- Office of US Sen. Tim Kaine
- US House Committee on Oversight and Accountability

## Nonprofit/Advocacy

- Abortion Access Front
- ACLU Foundation of Northern California
- Advance Illinois
- African American Mayor's Association
- American Society of Anesthesiologists
- Aspen Institute, Religion & Society Program
- Aspen Institute, Community Strategies Group
- Ballotpedia
- Braven
- Bursara Center
- Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
- Chicago Appleseed for Fair Courts
- Chicago Community Loan Fund
- Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights
- Children's Home & Aid
- Coastal States Organization
- Conservation X Labs
- Cooperative Development Fund
- Country First
- Economic Innovation Group
- Education Reform Now Advocacy
- enFocus Inc.
- Environmental Law & Policy Center
- Far South CDC
- Firebird Community Arts
- FirstRepair
- Forging Opportunities for Refugees in America
- Free the Bird
- Growth Teams
- Hazleton Integration Project

- Heartland Alliance
- High Atlas Foundation
- High School Law Review
- Hispanic Federation
- Holistic Birth Collective
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
- Illinois Community College Trustees Association
- Illinois Justice Project
- IMAGO Global Grassroots
- Impact Social Consulting
- Indian Institute of Technology
- Institute for Justice Clinic on Entrepreneurship
- International Research & Exchange Board (IREX)
- Invisible Institute
- Justice is Global
- Legal Aid Chicago
- Life Span
- LIFT-Chicago
- Maine Equal Justice
- Mexican Red Cross
- Mobilización de Mujeres Negras por el Cuidado de la Vida y Territorios Ancestrales (Black Women's Movement for the Care of Life and Ancestral Territories)
- National Abortion Federation
- New American Welcome Center - University YMCA
- Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
- Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
- Partnership for College Completion
- People's Action Institute
- Powered by People
- Project Unloaded
- Reform for Illinois
- Results for America
- Rise
- Southern Illinois University School of Medicine Department
- of Population Science and Policy
- Southern Africa Institute for Policy and Research
- Southside Together Organizing for Power
- Sunrise Movement Chicago Hub
- Telpochcalli Community Education Project
- TurnUp Activism
- University of Chicago Institute of Politics - Charles H. Percy Summer in Washington Program
- University of Chicago Office of Federal Relations
- University of Lucerne - Institute for Legal Foundations and
- Center for Law and Sustainability
- University of Nigeria Nsukka
- Urban Juncture
- Young Invisibles
- B'Art Contemporary



## Media

- ABC News
- El Paso Times
- The Axe Files
- The Cook Political Report with Amy Walter
- The Dispatch
- WisPolitics.com

## Intergovernmental/ Nongovernmental Agency

- Equal Innovation
- HealthRight International
- Rai Govind Shyam Trust
- The World Bank Group
- The World Bank Group, DIME
- UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- UN Habitat, Programme Development Branch
- UN System

## Think Tank

- Brookings
- British Institute of International and Comparative Law
- Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan
- Chicago Council on Global Affairs
- Chicago Project on Security and Threats
- Delta Health Alliance
- European Policy Centre
- German Marshall Fund
- Greater Chatham Initiative
- Hoover Institution
- Hudson Institute
- Institute for Governance Reform

## Civic Technology

- Worthy Minds
- CrimeVision Technologies, LLC
- JusticeText
- Trilogy Interactive

## Government Agency

- Chicago Department of Public Health
- Chicago Public Schools
- Chicago Public Schools, Chief Education Office
- Chicago Public Schools, Enterprise Architecture Business Analysis
- Chicago Public Schools: External Research Team
- Chicago Public Schools: Office of the CEO Strategic Planning
- City Colleges of Chicago
- City of Chicago, Office of Budget and Management
- Cook County Sheriff's Office
- Cook County State's Attorney

- Digital Agency for Public Innovation
- Energy & Environment Lab
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Florida Executive Office of the Governor
- Forest Preserves of Cook County
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Illinois Finance Authority, Climate Bank
- Illinois Finance Authority, Climate Bank
- Law Offices of Los Angeles County Public Defender
- Legal Services Corporation
- Missouri State Public Defender
- Nebraska Hospital Association
- New York County District Attorney's Office
- US Commission on Civil Rights
- US Department of Education
- US Department of Energy
- US Department of Energy, Clean Energy Deployment and Innovation
- US Department of Energy, Secretary's Office
- US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Center for Health Center Innovation
- US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Early Childhood Development, Administration for Children and Families
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- US Department of State
- US Department of the Treasury
- US Department of the Treasury, Office of International Affairs

## Political Consulting/Strategy

- AL Media
- Axis Research
- Black Rock Group
- Blockchain Association
- Bully Pulpit Interactive
- Dobson DaVanzo & Associates, LLC
- Federal Hall Policy Advisors
- Ferox Strategies
- Grassroots Analytics
- Grove Climate Group
- K.O. Strategies
- Langenfeld & Associates
- Magnify Strategies
- Mercury Public Affairs
- Mission Control Inc
- NEJ Consulting
- New Heights Communications
- Precision Strategies
- Public Opinion Strategies
- Public Strategies Washington
- Seven Letter
- The Frost Group
- Tiger Hill Partners



# 2023 - 2024 Academic-Year Internships

- Advance Illinois, Higher Education Policy Intern
- AL Media
- Alliance for the Great Lakes
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice
- Axe Files
- Blackroots Alliance
- Chicago Housing Authority
- Chicago Mayor's Office of Equity and Racial Justice
- Chicago Public Media WBEZ
- Chicago Public Schools, Chief Executive Office, Board of Education Liaison
- Chicago Public Schools, Chief Executive Office, Strategy
- Chicago Votes
- Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
- City Clerk's Office
- City Colleges of Chicago
- City of Chicago Department of Housing, Chicago Housing Trust
- City of Chicago Mayor's Office: Business & Neighborhood Development
- City of Chicago, Alderman Desmon Yancy, Ward 5
- City of Chicago, Alderman Lamont Robinson, Ward 4
- City of Chicago, Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS), Policy and Advocacy
- City of Chicago, Office of Budget and Management
- City of Chicago, Office of the Mayor, Policy Team
- City of Chicago, Treasurer's Office
- Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI)
- Consulate General of Mexico in Chicago
- Cook County Commissioner Anthony Quezada, District 8
- Cook County Sheriff's Office
- Cor Strategies
- Disability Lead
- Genesys Works
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)
- Illinois Department of Human Rights, Office of Public Affairs
- Illinois Department of Human Services, Associate Secretary's Office, Poverty Commission
- Illinois Finance Authority
- Illinois Justice Project
- Illinois Office of Broadband
- Illinois Policy Institute
- JusticeText
- League of Women Voters
- LifeSpan
- LiftUp Enterprises
- Magnify Strategies
- Mercury LLC
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD)
- Office of Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton
- Office of U.S. Rep. Jonathan Jackson (IL-01)
- Partnership for College Completion
- Paulson Institute
- People's Action
- Progressive Turnout Project
- Reform for Illinois
- Shriver Center
- Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP)
- Sunrise Movement
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Energy & Environment Lab)
- US Department of Health and Human Services
- World Business Chicago
- Young Invincibles



# In Their Own Words



“I interned for Powered by People, the Texas-based organization founded by former U.S. Congressman Beto O’Rourke. The opportunity emanated from providing research and seminar support to O’Rourke regarding civic participation and mobilizing low-propensity voters during his time as an IOP Pritzker Fellow. The mentorship and research experiences have had a significant impact on my academic and professional journey. Although Powered by People offered a less conventional and structured experience compared to another internship offer I had at Brookings Institution, I feel fortunate to have launched a nonprofit with a former elected official.

My responsibilities involved analyzing direct-to-voter contact data from O’Rourke’s 2022 gubernatorial campaign. The resulting report estimated the impact of door-knocking, phone calls, and text messages on voter turnout, ultimately to enhance the effectiveness of future organizing efforts. While studying the Texas political landscape, I found a direct link between the incentive-driven game theories I had studied in the classroom and their real-world applications. These models hypothesize that politicians often prioritize issues that secure their re-election rather than addressing the pressing concerns of young, poor, and minority constituents.

The organization’s mission is centered on ensuring that the Texas electorate accurately mirrors the state’s population, with young voters, lower-income voters, and voters of color participating at levels proportional to their demographic representation. Equipped with improved quantitative skills, a broad network of connections, a strong professional reference, and a wealth of ideas to address these electoral challenges, I am excited to continue this type of work full-time after graduation.”

**Hannah Gaffney, MPP ‘24**



# In Their Own Words

“Through the IOP, I had the incredible opportunity to serve as a policy and development intern with Life Span – a Chicago-based legal aid organization that helps survivors of domestic violence gain access to counseling, criminal court advocacy, and free or low-cost legal services. I shadowed work by attorneys, court advocates, counselors, and nonprofit board members to gain a deeper understanding of the role that legal advocacy and the nonprofit sector play in the creation of political change on a wider scale.

I worked on a number of important policy initiatives during my time with Life Span. I crafted a policy brief that unpacked the Civilian Office of Police Accountability’s handling of officer-involved domestic violence allegations, which I then presented in a meeting held with the City of Chicago Office of the Inspector General. I also did research regarding immigration case law and legal approaches that can be used to help survivors gain legal permanent resident status in the United States. In addition to my policy work, I also worked closely with the director of development to help fund the different services offered by the organization.

I had a very fulfilling internship experience during my summer internship. I learned about the legal realm of our political landscape, and I also got to do hands-on work which helped me develop important career skills. I look forward to continuing my work with Life Span during the academic school year and further improving life for those who face domestic violence in our community.”

**Aracely Flores-Ramirez, AB ‘25**







# Pritzker Fellows

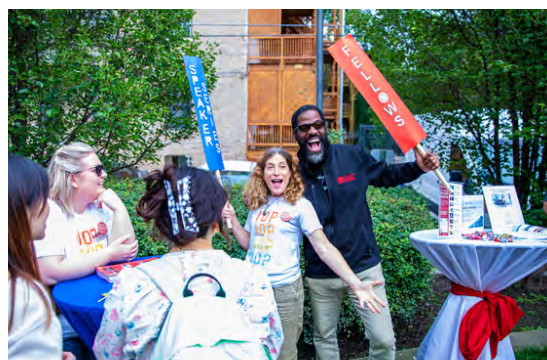


Former U.S. Representative and Pritzker Fellow Stephanie Murphy (D-FL) leads a seminar on the intersection of business and politics.





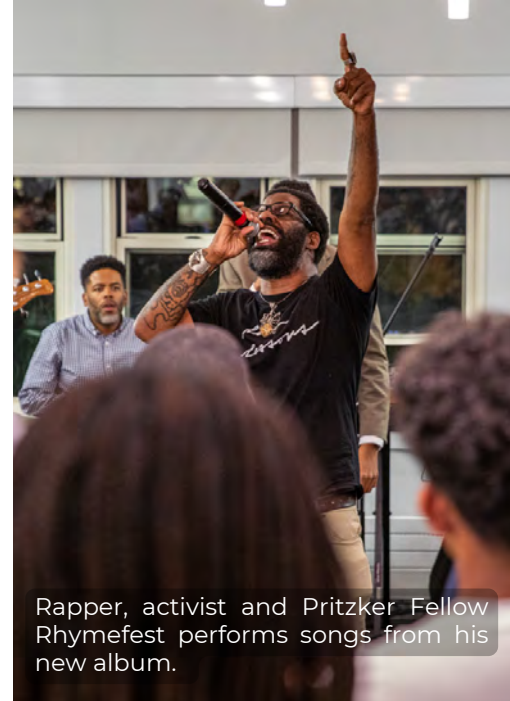
Scenes from the IOP's 2023 Fall Quarter Pritzker Fellows seminars.





This fall, our **Pritzker Fellows** were distinguished by the vast array of professional, regional and ideological backgrounds within the cohort, matched by their incredible cohesiveness as a group. Each week, fellows could be found in one another's seminars, sharing ideas, socializing together and sharing meals. Their genuine affection for each other and their willingness to engage one another across the different ideologies they hold embodied the ethos of our program.

Students across campus benefited in countless ways from our fellows. **Jeff Larson** attended weekly meetings with UChicago's College Republicans chapter. **Che "Rhymefest" Smith** met with students in the Chicago Bound program, the Black Law Students Association and with the IOP's UChiVotes organizers. He even took students on a tour of the South Shore communities. **Gov. Kate Brown** and **U.S. Rep Stephanie Murphy** met with the Obama Scholars and the IOP's W+ and Spectrum cohorts. Our visiting fellows, **Gov. Larry Hogan** and **Chase Strangio**, hosted dinners with students – notably Gov. Hogan's gathering included members of both College Republicans and UChicago Democrats where they debated current issues and discussed his policy positions while in office.



Rapper, activist and Pritzker Fellow Rhymefest performs songs from his new album.



Andrea Bell (front), executive director of Oregon Housing and Community Services, joins former Oregon Governor and Pritzker Fellow Kate Brown (behind) for a seminar on affordable housing.



Former U.S. Representative and Pritzker Fellow Stephanie Murphy (D-FL) leads a seminar on the intersection of business and politics.



# Fall 2023 Pritzker Fellows



**Kate Brown**

**Former Democratic Governor of Oregon**

Brown used the examination of her tenure to show how Oregon was a petri dish for prescriptive policy solutions for the most intractable problems in American life, from urban housing shortages, drug abuse, political extremism, rural-urban divides and criminal justice disparities. With bracing honesty about her own misgivings, failures and achievements, Brown, the “accidental” governor, packed her weekly seminars.



**Jeff Larson**

**Veteran Republican Consultant**

In the lead-up to the 2024 election cycle, Larson – who has been closely involved in Republican campaigns for three decades – walked students through all things primaries, caucuses, and conventions in precise and illuminating detail. He shared wisdom from the 2016 GOP convention, which he ran, and provided a healthy side dish on the role of money in campaigns and conventions.



**Stephanie Murphy**

**Former U.S. Representative (D-FL)**

Murphy, a refugee from Vietnam raised in a trailer park in rural Virginia, used her seminars to make the case that the two pillars that make America great are its governance system of democracy and its economic system of capitalism. Murphy explored the changing dynamics of the American electorate and took students through a rigorous tour of American policies around infrastructure, China, ESG and more.



# Fall 2023 Pritzker Fellows



## **Che "Rhymefest" Smith**

### **Grammy-Award Winning Hip-Hop Artist from Chicago**

Each Wednesday afternoon, the IOP House would come alive with music with a DJ providing the backdrop and Rhymefest kicking off his seminars with rapping and spoken word performances. He examined how culture impacts societal systems, institutional curriculum, commerce and political movements. Rhymefest wrapped up his seminar series with an hour-long performance played to a packed audience in the IOP living room.



## **Larry Hogan**

### **Former Republican Governor of Maryland**

Hogan, a lifelong Republican, walked our students through how he became a conservative governor in bright blue Maryland in 2014 and how he left office with the highest approval ratings of any governor in that state's history. Hogan explained how he navigated partisan dysfunction and incivility that has stained politics nationally and in other states. Throughout his time on campus, he worked with both Republican and Democrat student organizations to help them find paths toward more civil disagreement.



## **Chase Strangio**

### **Deputy Director for Transgender Justice with the American Civil Liberties Union**

With debates over rights for transgender people engulfing the nation, Strangio, a lead lawyer at the center of the most high-profile battles and the leading architect of challenges to bills governing restrooms, sports, and health care, oriented students around the history of trans rights, trans bodies and trans justice and the cultural and political background of this moment.



# In Their Own Words



Divya Mehrotra (AB '25) (right) poses with former Evanston Alderwoman and Pritzker Fellow Robin Rue Simmons (left).

“The IOP serves as an educational opportunity outside of the classroom, permitting me to practice and explore the political concepts I learn in the classroom. Every day, I rediscover my hope and faith in politics by hearing from world-renowned political practitioners and experts while learning what new policies and issues my attention should be directed toward. During a recent seminar with Jeff Larson, he touched on the role of media in the conventions and primary process for presidential elections. Long having been concerned about the rise of social media and the disinformation propagated through this medium, I was pleasantly surprised to hear Jeff and his guest, Rick Klein of ABC News, speak to the steps news organizations take to ensure the media is a source of truth. This conversation was the reassurance of the value of media platforms and the presence of people throughout that industry seeking to do good things in politics. That hope is something I have only been able to cultivate here at the IOP.

I love working on the Fellows Program because of the mentorship available to ambassadors and team leaders. Getting to regularly interact with the Fellows, I have taken advantage of the unique opportunities to ask them about career, professional, and personal advice. For example, in my second year when I was applying for legal and finance-related internships, I was struggling to personally answer the question of what my plans post-college were. So, at dinner with Robin Rue-Simmons, I asked her about her professional journey and what guided her in deciding to start as a real-estate business owner and switch to serving in government. Hearing from her about her success in switching between industries years into her career assuaged my concerns about feeling behind my peers if I switched fields later in life. Because of her and her thought-provoking advice, I have settled on my immediate career plans and grown comfortable with the uncertainty that accompanies my professional life.”

**Divya Mehrotra, AB '25**





ACLU Deputy Director for Transgender Justice and visiting Pritzker Fellow Chase Strangio (right) leads a seminar with guest Paola Mendoza (left), co-founder and artistic director of the Women's March.

## In Their Own Words

“During orientation week, I came across the IOP at a graduate student resource fair. Walking up to the IOP booth, I immediately saw an image of Chase Strangio, a lawyer and advocate I have followed for years. As a trans person, I cannot underscore the power of seeing and meeting people in your community at the highest levels of their profession. People like him represent a path forward that would otherwise be littered with barriers and challenges along the way. For three days, I attended multiple seminars and talks that unpacked the legal side of the anti-trans movement, an issue that often feels all-consuming and utterly hopeless at times. However, I am most thankful for the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Chase during his office hours. There are so few people in the world that are able to field all of my questions about pursuing a career in law, unpacking legal strategies during an onslaught of anti-trans actions, and picking apart queer theory and its application to litigation within a system that will never lead to queer liberation.”

**AT Craig, MPP ‘25**





Scenes from the IOP's 2023 Fall Quarter Affordable Housing Policy Challenge.



# Affordable Housing Policy Challenge

Twice a year, the Institute of Politics challenges students to propose solutions to major policy puzzles that vex local, national, and global leaders. This fall, we asked students to tackle **the affordable housing crisis** across America. In total, **43 students across 12 teams participated**. The students came from all corners of campus including from The College, the Harris School of Public Policy and even the Divinity School participated.

In the making of their proposals, teams met with an array of professional practitioners from within the housing sector.

After an exciting first round, three teams were selected to move to the final round. A team from Harris calling themselves, **"N.O.A.H.'s Ark"** sought to increase the development of affordable housing and work to maintain the current supply of affordable units. **"Streamlining Santa Cruz,"** a team of three students from the College, called for the restructuring of the bureaucratic apparatus within the Santa Cruz Department of Economic Housing and Development. The final team, **"ADUnlock: Accelerating ADU Access,"** was made up of two College students and two Harris Students. This team recommended establishing a federal program which allows states to access grants, conditional on the removal of barriers to constructing additional dwelling units (ADUs) in those states. The winning team, whose proposal was ADUnlock and consisted of Emma Janssen (The College '24), Tiffany Li (The College '26), Jane Jingyi Ma (Harris '25) and Beiqi Shi ('25), won \$500 each and will have a chance to present their proposal to a group of housing experts.









THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

---

**INSTITUTE OF POLITICS**