

The background of the cover is a photograph of a young man and woman walking towards the camera on a brick path. The woman, on the left, has long blonde hair and is wearing a black blazer over a patterned skirt and black tights. The man, on the right, is wearing a blue suit with a red tie. They are both smiling and appear to be in conversation. The path is lined with a brick wall on the left and trees on the right. The ground is covered with fallen leaves.

HERITAGE Young Leaders MAGAZINE

Empowering
the Next
Generation

2024



Dear Friends,

WITHOUT YOU, THE HERITAGE Foundation's Young Leaders Program (YLP) would not be possible. On behalf of all the interns, thank you. I am honored to share my experience with YLP over these past few months.

Immediately after learning about the YLP program, I knew I needed to apply. The mission of Heritage, plus the opportunities they provide for their interns, aligned perfectly with my career goals and values. One year later, I found myself moving to Washington, D.C., as a spring intern.

This internship has been educational, enlightening, and inspirational—everything I hoped for and more.

From leadership lectures to the weekly public events, the YLP program provides plentiful opportunities to meet with and learn from experts. The entire staff is eager to meet with interns to willingly share their advice, backgrounds, and expertise.

While we learn, we interns are also doing real work. In our various departments around the building, we are treated like Heritage staff, getting a “sneak peek” of a career at a leading conservative think tank.

Through my experience, I have developed a deeper respect for our nation's founding and those who sacrificed everything to get us here. The knowledge and experience I received during my time at Heritage will remain invaluable throughout my career.

Your generosity makes this program possible. Thanks to you, YLP will continue to inspire the next leaders of the conservative movement and preserve this free nation. Thank you for believing in us.

Warm regards and many thanks,

Allison Lawrence
*Pilgrim Foundation Intern
Spring 2024*



Allison was the Spring 2024 Pilgrim Intern in Donor Relations. Heritage hosts more than 180 interns every year.

YoungLeaders

BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATIVE LEADERS

CONTENTS | 2024

INTERN MESSAGE

2

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

The People Pipeline
at Work

6

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

A Heart for
Service

7

AT A GLANCE

12

YOUR NAMED INTERNS

14

Interns Reflect

19

“... measure
your success by
timeless values
like faith, family,
and service
to others.”



Heritage Takes on
High School



INTERN SPOTLIGHT

Tru Dabney,
Class of 2024



© 2024 The Heritage Foundation | 214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE | Washington, DC 20002 | (202) 544-4400

Nothing in these pages is to be construed as necessarily reflecting the views of The Heritage Foundation
or as an attempt to aid or hinder the passage of any bill before Congress.



PRESIDENT KEVIN ROBERTS, PH.D., with former Young Leaders Program intern Wyatt Eichholz at the 2024 Annual Leadership Conference.

Q&A with Dr. Kevin Roberts

AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. KEVIN ROBERTS, PRESIDENT OF THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Dr. Roberts has worked extensively in education, including previously serving as president of Wyoming Catholic College and founding a K-12 school in Louisiana.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF Dr. Kevin Roberts, The Heritage Foundation has worked to increase our outreach to young people, ground them in the things that truly matter, and help them find their place in the conservative movement.

Why is Heritage's "people pipeline" so important to the future of the conservative movement?

The "people pipeline" at Heritage is vital to the future of the conservative movement because it serves as a robust mechanism for identifying, nurturing, and empowering the next generation of conservative leaders.

We need young conservatives who understand why we call ourselves conservative, why we're proud of our country, and why we must be active

BAUMAN PHOTOGRAPHERS

in the policy sphere. The mentorship, training, and opportunities Heritage offers cultivate diverse and talented cohorts who will carry forward those principles for generations to come.

This understanding is what Dr. Feulner instilled in us during the early days of Heritage, and it's something we continue to cultivate today. Heritage's portfolio of programs ensures that the movement remains vibrant, dynamic, and equipped to tackle the challenges of tomorrow with boldness and conviction.

What are some of the top issues in Washington, D.C., today that young people could help us tackle?

Young people have a critical role to play in addressing the pressing issues facing our nation today, particularly in foreign policy and emerging technology. In Washington, D.C., we're contending with a myriad of challenges, from the erosion of liberty to the growing influence of woke, weaponized government and the stifling of free speech.

Rebuilding America's institutions will require the fresh, innovative perspective of younger generations and their strong sense of urgency to save our country.

How would you advise young people to stay true to their principles even as they get involved in political life, government, and advocacy work?

Staying true to one's principles in the turbulent world of politics and advocacy can be challenging, especially for young people eager to make a difference. My advice would be twofold: first, never lose sight of your faith and core religious values. These principles are the compass that will guide you through the complexities of political life.

Second, go to church as often as you can and surround yourself with community, a group of mentors and peers who share your commitment to these principles and who

will support and challenge you along the way. Remember, integrity and conviction are the cornerstones of effective leadership, and by staying true to your principles, you can make a lasting impact on our nation's future.

What book would you recommend or advice would you give to young people looking to advance their career in public service?

Young people should remember that public service can take many forms. It doesn't necessarily need to mean working on the Hill or for a politician. Founding John Paul the Great Academy in my hometown of Lafayette, Louisiana, was as much an act of public service as my work here in Washington.

Add these titles to your reading list: *The Conservative Mind* and *Virtuous Leadership*.

The culture of politics in D.C. seems to prioritize money and power at the expense of faith and family. What standards should young people use to measure their success?

Avoid the temptation to chase after power. Instead, measure your success by timeless values like faith, family, and service to others. Stay humble, show compassion, and uphold moral integrity. Remember Ronald Reagan's words: "There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit." True success isn't about personal glory but about making a positive difference in people's lives and leaving behind a legacy of virtue.

As a parent yourself, what would you recommend parents and grandparents do to inspire their children and grandchildren to a life of public service?

Love your spouse and be faithful to them; always speak kindly about them, especially around your children. All genuine public service starts with serving your immediate family. If children see their father and mother living for others, they will learn to do the same. 🙏



ANDREW HARDING, who participated in three different Heritage programs as a student, now serves as a research assistant in our Asian Studies Center.

The People Pipeline at Work

ANDREW HARDING IS A TESTAMENT to how Heritage's people pipeline works. When he was a freshman at George Washington University, Andrew found himself unexpectedly at a career fair. While walking around, he came upon a booth promoting Heritage's Local University Conservatives program. He recognized Heritage from his time prepping for high school debates, and the Heritage team encouraged him to apply.

Andrew was reluctant at first to commit to a semester-long program outside class.

"Thankfully, I decided to apply, and it was one of the best decisions I ever made," he says. "The introduction to conservative principles and scholars offered me a home in Washington that I did not have on my college campus."

In his junior year, Andrew enrolled in The Academy, a virtual program Heritage started during the COVID-19 lockdowns that has since become a huge ongoing success because it lets students get many of the benefits of the YLP program on their own schedules. "I could watch lectures at times convenient to me while joining in live conversations during a lunch hour."

After graduating, Andrew turned down an offer for a full-time job on the Hill and decided instead to enroll as a YLP intern. In college,

he'd become keenly interested in national security issues, and the YLP program offered him the chance to spend a semester working at the Allison Center for National Security.

"I believed, which proved to be true, that the internship would provide hands-on projects and direct experiences with some of America's greatest defense minds," he said.

Recognizing his talents, Heritage hired Andrew. He's a research assistant at the Asian Studies Center and is now the institution's lead expert on the Pacific Islands.

To donors who support YLP, Andrew has a message: "Above all, thank you. No other internship program comes close to the depth of YLP or the investments it makes in its interns. And believe me, I had a total of seven internships before joining Heritage as a staff member."

To young people starting their careers, Andrew has some advice: "I recommend perfecting what I call unteachable traits. Your supervisors will work with you to improve your professional skills. But what makes a young person stand out is their work ethic, passion, humility, maturity, character, and attitude," he says. "Take the time to be the best version of yourself you can possibly be."

Amen to that. 🙏



BEATRICE AND LLOYD SMITH have generously supported Heritage for the past 15 years and were instrumental in funding Heritage's new High School Fellowship.

A Heart for Service

“Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, leave the rest to God.”

—RONALD REAGAN

THERE'S ARGUABLY NOTHING ELSE THAT Washington, D.C., needs more of than generosity of spirit. And this is the virtue that Lloyd and Beatrice “Bea” Smith embody.

For 15 years, the Smiths have been giving to Heritage as their passion for instilling conservative values in the next generation has grown. They sponsor a Young Leaders Program intern every semester and were instrumental in funding Heritage's new High School Program (see page 11).

“When we first started giving to Heritage, it filled a void in my life. The deeper we got into it, the better I felt about our country,” said Bea.

Lloyd and Bea told the Young Leaders Magazine that they were fortunate to live without the burden of large student loan debts and want to pass on that opportunity to others so they can

learn about our country's heritage and principles without taking on massive debt.

“America's future is very important to us. We want to do anything we can to help young people make good decisions for themselves and our country,” said Lloyd.

The Smiths are inspired by the Young Leaders Program and the hardworking youth that they see pass through the program.

“Both of us feel more positive about our country than we've felt in a long time,” said Bea.

It's thanks to the generosity of Americans like Lloyd and Bea that there is hope for future generations. Heritage is blessed to have such patriots standing with us to save this country. 🇺🇸



Building the People Pipeline to Save America



OPPOSITE PAGE AND LEFT: Former Young Leaders Program interns Anna Young and Wyatt Eichholz spoke at the 2024 Annual Leadership Conference in Santa Barbara, California.

WE HEAR THE SAME STORY FROM Capitol Hill all too often. Passionate conservatives come to Washington to represent their principled constituents. Yet, the staff who join their offices don't share those same conservative values. Without backup, members begin to falter and risk caving on the ideals that brought them to D.C. in the first place.

That's why The Heritage Foundation's "people pipeline" is essential to the success of the conservative movement. **The Young Leaders Program** is just one of many Heritage programs to train the next generation of principled advocates. With your help, we're equipping passionate young people with the knowledge, skills, and networks they need to stay true to their principles, advance their careers in the conservative movement, and ultimately reclaim our nation.

Heritage's **Job Bank** has a decades-long track record of placing principled conservatives in key positions to strategically advance our policy values. Whether helping interns polish up their resumes and cover letters, or recommending mid-career professionals for critical roles, the Job Bank actively connects our program graduates and alumni with the right professional opportunities to drive conservative policy victories.

Ready, Set, HILL! is an intensive two-day training program that equips young conservatives with the knowledge and practical skills to succeed immediately in their first jobs on Capitol Hill. The Job Bank team developed the curriculum

with direct input from congressional staff. In 2023, the Job Bank doubled its personnel placement on the Hill, and 30% of those placements graduated from Ready, Set, HILL!

The Academy, launched in 2020, offers a robust foundation in conservative principles and policies through a virtual eight-week program. We recently created specific tracks within The Academy to tailor the experience for high school and college students. The Academy has already trained over 1,400 students from all 50 states and over 40 countries.

Our **Local University Conservatives (LUC)** program caters to students from D.C. area colleges during the fall and spring semesters. During the summer, the **Conservative Hill Intern Program (CHIP)** gathers interns from Capitol Hill. Both these programs convene once a week for a shared meal and presentation from a policy expert.

LUC and CHIP not only provide exposure to conservative principles and policies but also build support and community among the students to help them thwart the Left's influence on their campuses. Graduates of LUC and CHIP go on to join the Academy and the Young Leaders Program. Our Job Bank team connects these students to fellowship opportunities with conservative coalition partners and ultimately places them into their next professional opportunities.

Thanks to you, Heritage continues to expand and streamline our people pipeline on behalf of the conservative movement. 🇺🇸





Heritage Takes on High School

IT'S HARD TO FOLLOW THE news these days without coming across stories of high schools pushing radical leftist ideology on students while trying to hide it from parents.

As part of our “always on offense” posture, we aren’t sitting by while schools indoctrinate our children. That’s why we’ve been leading the charge for universal school choice. And it’s why we launched, with the support of generous donors, the High School Fellowship program.

This program builds on Heritage’s unmatched experience and success in recruiting and training young adults for leadership in the conservative movement and adds another piece to the people pipeline.

To make the program as widely accessible as possible, we added a high school track to our proven online Academy fellowship this spring. This lets us enroll as many students as are interested from all walks of life and all parts of the country.

The eight-week online high school track features live facilitator-led discussions and 16 pre-recorded lectures that deliver actual American

history and discuss pressing issues. There will be reading assignments, quizzes, and a final writing assignment, all geared for busy high school students. Students who complete the program will be equipped to courageously stand up for their beliefs.

They could also be eligible for the High School Fellowship. Each summer we will invite a select group of top Academy graduates and outstanding candidates from other movement groups for an all-expenses-paid immersive week in Washington, D.C.

These students will work on real-life policy projects, read great works, meet with public officials, visit inspirational sites, and build lasting friendships. They will collaborate on the capstone project where they will formulate and present policy solutions to real-world challenges.

Our work with these bright young students won’t end there. Heritage will provide ongoing support for Fellowship alumni, working with them through college, connecting them with internships, and helping them get started on their careers. 🇺🇸

Heritage's High School Fellowship is designed to equip bright young high school students to defend their values in the classroom and throughout their lives.

Just Who Are These Young Leaders?



130

YLP alumni
were working on
Capitol Hill by the
end of 2023



States with the most interns:
Virginia, Texas,
California, and Florida

Class of 2023 also had...



Four NCAA athletes



One former U.S. Marine
Corps intelligence officer



Two in ROTC



One shooting coach
for the Harvard
shooting team



Five
Eagle Scouts

Most popular undergrad colleges and universities were...

Liberty
University

Hillsdale
College

American
University

In the latest class of YLP grads...

92%

feel better equipped
to launch their career
in the conservative
movement as a result
of interning at Heritage

100%

reported being
more committed
than ever to their
conservative values



TRU DABNEY DEVELOPED a passion for education policy while interning at the Center for Education Policy and believes Heritage's biggest contribution is youth outreach.

Tru Dabney, Class of 2024

TRU DABNEY REALIZED THAT THE Heritage Foundation wasn't like the rest of Washington. "Heritage sets the bar high," he said.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Tru interned for the Young Leaders Program in the Spring 2024 semester. He received his undergrad at American University, worked for a stint for former Sen. Pat Toomey, R- Penn., and most recently, he interned in Heritage's Center for Education Policy.

Tru says that "working in the Center for Education Policy under policy experts such as Dr. Lindsey Burke and Jonathan Butcher, I developed a passion for education policy over the course of the internship."

The internship also showed Tru that conservatives aren't taking a backseat to national politics anymore.

Tru's experience at Heritage showed him "that conservatives need to take the offensive approach and be more proactive." The Left has been on offense for years, says Tru.

When it comes to youth recruitment, YLP stands alone. Reflecting on his internship, Tru believes Heritage's biggest contribution as an organization is youth outreach. Heritage has the unique ability to change the conversation and the capacity to fortify conservatives as they enter their careers.

"Heritage provides a range of programming that allows interns to explore their interests while equipping them with essential tools to take with them," Tru notes.

"As I move on to my next professional endeavor, I will carry with me all of the experiences I've had at Heritage." 🦋



Interns Supported by You!

The Oscar Ancira Intern

Grace Taylor,
Brigham Young University—Idaho

Caesar Arredondo Intern

Sophia Almanza,
University of Alabama
Lucas de Carvalho,
University of Oxford
Gabriella De La Torre,
Franciscan University of Steubenville
Martin Guerrero,
Texas A&M International University

Jean Paul Pichardo,
American University
Gabriel Rondon,
Florida International University

The Jim & Marcia Borel Intern

Dillon Tarle,
University of Notre Dame

John and Barbara Bruning Intern

Michael Ippolito,
Catholic University of America



David V. Burgett Intern

Lindsay McQuinn,
University of Kansas
Anderson Vendt,
University of Michigan

The Marionlou P. and David J. Burke Intern

Grayson Knox,
Kenyon College

Mary H. Campbell Foundation Intern

Shalom Victor,
Lone Star College

The Loretta Cangialosi Intern

Macy Petty,
Lee University

Carter and Moyers Intern

Robert Hartwick,
American University
Mary Lueck,
Christendom College

Richard Earl Carter Meese Center Intern

Matthew Turner,
University of Florida

Clough Family Intern

James Flett,
Bridgewater State University

B&E Collins Foundation Intern

Lauren Grace Niesent,
Liberty University

Gene D'Agostino Meese Center Intern

Wilson He,
Yale University

John R. and M. Margrite Davis Foundation Intern

Graciela Phillipps,
Liberty University

Gary L. Dawson Intern

Neil Banerji,
University of Oxford
Jackson Stallings,
Clemson University

The Rebecca Eddy de Broekert Intern

Isaac Tang,
Harvard University

The Dillion Foundation Intern

Samuel Ennis,

University of Missouri

Elliot Nazar,

University of California, Los Angeles

Joseph Sturdy,

Hillsdale College

Paul N. and Lynn J. Douthat Intern

Sara Garstka,

St. Joseph's University

Frank G. and Gertrude Dunlap Fund Intern

Johanna Torres,

Oklahoma State University

Franklet Intern

Paul Berge,

Northern Illinois University

The Erika and Roger Greaves Intern

Joseph Angermeier,

Clemson University

Meredith Bernal,

Liberty University

Berniece and William Grewcock Intern

Clara Easterday,

Christendom College

Duggan Foley,

Hillsdale College

Makenna Gregurek,

University of Iowa

Rachel Schroder,

Hillsdale College

Henry Walter,

Hillsdale College

Linda Boyce Haller Intern

Amanda Smith,

University of Florida

Marjorie W. Herrick Intern

Kelsey Smith,

Clemson University

David A. King Intern

Ian Quinn,

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Elizabeth Richards,

University of Dallas

Kevin Kline Intern

Susanna Edgecomb,

University of Alabama

Kevin Kookogey Meese Center Intern

Anne Gardner Coates,

Hillsdale College

Kuchta Family Intern

Angelo Soto,

Eastern University

Sandy and Bruce Lang Intern

Hannah Balash,

Kent State University

The David and Rebecca Laschinger Intern

Illiana Lievanos,

University of California, Santa Barbara

Robert Mair Meese Center Interns

Amelia Gradick,

Baylor University

Pierce Sandlin,

Wake Forest University

Mayer Intern

Anna Young,

Concordia University

The Martin and Janet Michel Intern

Jacob Neer,

Regent University

**Robert S. and Janet L. Miller
Foundation Intern**

Joseph Addington,
Brigham Young University
Sheridan Bass,
Florida College
Molly Black,
Pontifical John Paul II Institute
Logan Bradley,
Wofford College
Peter James Butler,
University of Notre Dame
Jessica Costescu,
Georgetown University
James George,
College of William & Mary
Wyatt Greco,
Creighton University
Oriet Hemenway,
University of North Carolina
Sary Mumayiz,
University of Maryland, College Park

The Montreal Economic Institute Intern

John Peluso,
London School of Economics
Tyler Whitman,
Christopher Newport University

Guido and Susan Pichini Intern

Olivia Hundley,
Mercer University

Pilgrim Foundation Intern

John Kraemer,
College of the Holy Cross
Mayte Romero,
George Washington University

Doris and Richard Pistole Intern

Christian Nieshella,
Purdue University

The Susan and David Perdue Intern

George Pierson,
Catholic University of America

Ray Foundation Intern

Peter Balos,
Ursinus College
Matthew Corinaldesi,
Catholic University of America
Parker Rossignol,
University of Florida
Samuel Silverstro,
College of the Holy Cross

The John and Virginia Rigsby Intern

Elizabeth Troutman,
Hillsdale College

Haskell Robinson Intern

Anna Bowers,
Yale University
Nicholas Clifford,
Indiana University
Patricio Andres Quinlan-Adame,
University of Navarra

Jordan Saunders Intern

Katelyn Meeks,
Ashland University

Greg Sheehan Meese Center Intern

Madeline Nielsen,
Brigham Young University
Jacob Shields,
University of Maryland, College Park

Shining City On a Hill Intern

Mackenzie Fries,
George Washington University
Isaac Kantola,
Liberty University
Emily Mohr,
Michigan State University

Harry E. Sims Congressional Programs Intern

Marcos Quandros,
Augustana University

The Harry Sims and Sharon Brimhall Intern

Isabella Davis,
Las Positas College

The Lloyd and Beatrice Smith Intern

Karlynn Stepek,
University of Maryland, College Park

Col. Charles B. and Sally G. Stevenson Intern

Jonathan Harman,
Brigham Young University

George W. Tippins Intern

Peter Key,
University of Dallas

Tom Tracy Intern

Colin Smith,
University of Notre Dame

Joseph Wambold Intern

Giana DePaul,
Liberty University

The Howard and Mary Ann Watrous Intern

Jenna Swiney,
Texas A&M University

The Ronald and Dorothy Weinell Intern

Edith Harold,
University of Dallas

Ron Weinell Intern

John-Paul Collins,
University of Dallas

James A. West National Security Intern

Andrew LoCicero,
George Washington University

Samuel L. Westerman Foundation Interns

Aidan Moorehouse,
Christendom College
Isaac Rits,
Patrick Henry College

Winzenried Intern

Dominick Buehler,
Syracuse University

William M. Young Meese Center Intern

Abby Carr,
Harvard University

Interns Reflect

From the Young Leaders of 2023

“

The Young Leaders Program has been the most enriching and formative time in my young professional life thus far. I learned so much from the lecture series and had opportunities to do substantive work for the conservative movement. Heritage’s working culture is a testament to American exceptionalism, and it was truly a privilege to learn from the community there. My career will be shaped in incomparable ways because of this program, and I can’t thank Heritage’s supporters enough for making the experience possible!”

—Sara Gartska,

Paul N. and Lynn J. Douthat Intern, The Daily Signal, Fall 2023

“

When I interned for the Allison Center for National Security, I didn’t just make coffee, I was part of the defense team. I had the opportunity to write op-eds and work on congressional testimony. As part of the Young Leaders Program, I developed a better idea of the ‘why’ behind some of my views and put ideas into an ideological framework. YLP was immensely valuable to me, a great program.”

—Jim Fein,

Allison Center for National Security,
Fall 2023

“

I think the thing I valued most in the internship was meeting so many great people. The friends I made, I will keep for many years to come, and those staff I interned under at Heritage are truly impressive, it was an honor to complete so much important work with them.”

—Brendan O’Connell

Project 2025,
Fall 2023

“

The humility, generosity, and selflessness that flowed out of Heritage employees is something I’ll never forget. YLP equips its interns not only with the intellectual tools to advance the conservative movement, but the virtues by which we ought to work and live. I am so thankful for the people that made this experience possible.”

—Amelia Kuntzman,

DeVos Center for Life, Religion, and Family, Spring 2024



You, too, can sponsor an intern.

BY ADDING \$10,000 TO YOUR ANNUAL SUPPORT, YOU WILL ENABLE ONE young conservative to spend a semester learning and working at Heritage. He or she will bear your name or that of a loved one and will send you personal updates throughout the term. Permanent naming opportunities are also available with a gift of \$200,000. Please contact your Heritage representative or a staff member at 1-800-546-2843 for more information.