



Dear Friends,

EW PLACES OFFER THE hands-on training, community, mentorship, and inspiration that The Heritage Foundation does. Thank you for providing young conservatives like me with the opportunity to grow here through your generous support of the Young Leaders Program (YLP).

Upon my arrival at Heritage this spring, I became the first ever Policy Campaigns Intern. I was trusted to play an integral role in advancing Heritage's nine policy priorities. I witnessed first-hand how Heritage is carefully bringing together skills and expertise from across the building and the conservative movement to achieve wins on behalf of the American people.

Supporting all nine Policy Campaigns enabled me to acquire new skills and insights, including effective project management and strong network-building. I am beyond grateful for my placement with the Policy Campaigns initiative!

But YLP goes far beyond providing technical experience. We interns

receive deep investment in our intellectual growth and leadership formation, too.

Through the First Principles Lecture Series, policy briefings, mentor assignments, and career readiness programs, YLP uses every minute of the semester to mold thoughtful, well-equipped, and successful leaders for America. These resources are particularly invaluable to me as someone who came to appreciate conservatism my senior year, after spending my entire college career learning public policy from the Left's perspective.

Your support has allowed me and my peers to garner the skills and knowledge to succeed and the mentors and friends to persevere. Thank you!

With sincere gratitude,

Saidy Cedano Spring 2025



SAIDY **CEDANO** was the Spring 2025 intern in Policy Campaigns. Heritage hosts more than 150 interns every year.

YoungLeaders

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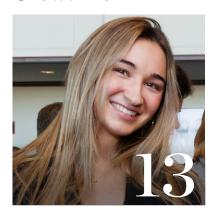
"... we believe that not only can we save this country, but that America's best days are ahead."







Celebrating Record Growth for YLP



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PRESIDENT KEVIN ROBERTS, Ph.D., speaks during an event at Heritage headquarters in Washington, D.C.

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 and founder of a K-12 school in Louisiana.

ERITAGE PRESIDENT Dr. Kevin Roberts believes that the future of conservatism rests in the hands of our youth. Dr. Roberts sat down with our team to share his thoughts on the next generation of conservative leaders.

What role do you think young conservatives play at this juncture in our nation's story? What advice would you give them for leading the conservative movement forward?

The role of young conservatives is reminding those of us who are older of what is at stake. What's at stake is the future of this republic and the future of self-government. The natural optimism found in young people is a good reminder for us older generations: we need to stop worstcase scenario thinking, and shift to best-case scenario thinking. What can this country be in 15, 25, even 50 years? The next generation will play a huge role in making that happen.



DR. ROBERTS joins our spring interns for the 2025 March for Life.

How does Heritage's Young Leaders Program encourage young conservatives to play an active role in building our nation's future?

The role of the Young Leaders Program is threefold: first to better prepare students for full-time roles they are likely to have in the conservative movement; second, to provide the philosophical grounding which is missing now in most schools; and third, to exhibit virtue, by example of our Heritage colleagues, and remind YLP participants that virtue is essential. What the republic is missing most of all is young people who are willing to lead virtuously.

What do you want young people to learn from Heritage's policy priorities?

At the heart of our policy priorities is an undying belief in the dignity of the human person. Flowing from that is the blessing we have from our Creator to wake up every day in the United States. In the ordering of those priorities, we believe that not only can we save this country, but that America's best days are ahead.

Often, young conservatives focus on getting involved in politics in D.C. (and rightfully so), but what are some ways they

can get involved in their hometowns or on their college campuses?

Our work at Heritage is so influential in Washington because we've never forgotten the local. It is important for all of us, especially college students, to be focused on the most local of local, not just college campuses, but dorm rooms, family dinner tables, church communities, professional associations. It's stitching together progress in each of those local areas that allows state policy to be better, that then allows federal policy to be better.

And ultimately, if people aren't doing that at the local level, including on university campuses, Heritage would have no chance of success.

If you could give a piece of advice to the college version of yourself at the cusp of your career in education and politics, what would it be? What do you think is most important for this generation to hear?

Conservatives do plenty of thinking, reading, and talking, but what we don't do enough is preparing to govern. It isn't enough to think, to write, to be on TV, or to make Instagram videos. If we are going to forge the new Golden Age of America, we have to be ready to govern. And I think that's what is vital about YLP preparing the younger generation for the next 50 years.



THE INAUGURAL CLASS of the Lloyd and Bea Smith High School Fellowship outside the Library of Congress.

Empowering Conservative High Schoolers

AST YEAR, HERITAGE NOTICED A missing piece in our People Pipeline.
Our programs reached college students, recent graduates, and young professionals, but the Left doesn't wait until college to push their agenda on young people. Long before students even had the chance to encounter Heritage, they were thrown onto hostile college campuses with few resources for conservatives.

That all changed when Heritage launched our Lloyd and Bea Smith High School Fellowship in the summer of 2024. Thanks to the generosity of Lloyd and Bea Smith, Heritage now offers a free week-long summer program for a select group of 35 high school students from across the country. Participants live in our nation's capital, study conservative political thought, visit pivotal historic sites like Mount Vernon, the Capitol, and the Washington Monument, and forge relationships with like-minded youth.

Students also hear from experts across Heritage's key policy priorities and gain hands-on experience by engaging with our scholars and staff across the organization. The programming not only educates students on the policy issues of the day but also illustrates the ways in which students can use their unique skills to serve the conservative movement.

To close the week, students present their capstone projects on public policy questions, receiving feedback and awards on their projects from Heritage experts and staff. The capstone project gives students the opportunity to grapple with real policy questions and chart their own solutions.

The High School Fellowship fosters the minds of young conservatives, connects them with a supportive community, and equips them for the road ahead. After attending the program last summer, Saraj Shah, a high school junior from Orange County, California, said, "Heritage gave me the courage to engage in policy discussions confidently, to stand firm in my beliefs, and to understand that the fight for freedom is not just theoretical—it's urgent."



HERITAGE SUPPORTER LARRY POLHILL meets YLP alumna Liana Gordon at Heritage's Annual Leadership Conference.

Fostering Entrepreneurial Young Leaders

BOUGHT A GAS STATION WHEN I was 17," said Larry Polhill. "I wasn't old enough to sign the lease. I got my high school business teacher to become a onethird partner in the business, and he signed the lease as well as a small bank loan." Larry grew up in Freeport, a conservative town in the northwest corner of deep blue Illinois. His family didn't have much money, but Larry had an entrepreneurial spirit and a love of cars.

"I was working on cars when I was young, and had three cars before I had a driver's license, buying them, flipping them, whatever, just fixing them." When he heard that the owner of a local gas station wanted to sell, he decided to buy.

Larry never stopped seizing moments like that or trying new things, which led to a career that spanned equipment repairman, occupational safety inspector, oil wholesaler, and on to president of American Pacific

Financial Corp., chairman of Inventure Foods, and more. One thing that never changed was Larry's faith in a country that provided boundless opportunities to those willing to work hard. And he never forgot the importance of having a mentor like his high school teacher.

That's why he has focused his philanthropy on programs that help young conservatives get a start in life. When Larry learned about the Young Leaders Program, he decided to sponsor named interns.

"I try to fight the nonsense from public schools and the universities and all the woke nonsense that's out there," he said. "That's a big part of my motivation. It is an honor to support such good works."

Last year, one of Larry's YLP interns wrote to him (all named interns write to their sponsors): "The knowledge and mentorship I received daily have been instrumental in both my professional and personal growth."

That was no doubt music to Larry's ears.





Opposite page: YLP **ALUMNA NOELANI KAHAPEA** addresses the crowd at the opening of Heritage's E.W. Richardson Building:

Left: YLP **ALUMNUS GRANT STROBL** eniovs time with his fellow interns during a visit to Mount Vernon in 2017.

ITH THE HELP OF OUR generous supporters, The Heritage Foundation hosts over 150 of America's best and brightest young conservatives each year in what is for many the first step in their careers.

While enrolled in the Young Leaders Program, these interns learn about the philosophical roots of conservatism, make lifelong friends, and do real work advancing one of the nine policy priorities that Heritage has identified as issues Americans care most about. We call them our "policy priorities."

Many of them continue to drive progress on these priorities after they graduate.

Take summer 2015 intern Noelani Kahapea, for example. One of our most important policy priorities

is Expanding Education Freedom. Noelani is now the senior director of policy and advocacy for the Association of American Educators. AAE is the largest non-union teachers' association in the country and represents over 30,000 educators across all 50 states. She works to promote education freedom and involve educators in conversations about expanding school choice and education quality for American children.

Noelani also worked as the senior policy staffer for the Republican Study Committee (RSC), where she helped the cause for education freedom nationally, something that has been near and dear to her heart since childhood.

Other YLP graduates are fighting to Root Out the Deep State by taking on federal regulators (another policy



Noelani Kahapea, Summer 2015



Grant Strobl, Spring 2017

POLICY CHAMPIONS

Former interns who have/are doing policy work as full-time staff at The Heritage Foundation:



Unleash American **Energy** Kevin Dayaratna Director, Chief Statistician, and Senior Research Fellow, Center for Data Analysis



Expand Education Freedom Jonathan Butcher Will Skillman Senior Research Fellow in Education Policy, Center for Education Policy



Eliminate Regulation, Inflation, and Spending Miles Pollard **Economic Policy** Analyst, Center for Data Analysis



Restore Digital Sovereignty Jake Denton Former Heritage Foundation Research associate, Tech Policy Center



Put Family First Rachel Sheffield Research Fellow, Welfare and Family Policy, Center for Health and Welfare Policy



priority). Class of 2017 graduate Grant Strobl (also known for bucking the pronoun craze by insisting on the moniker "His Majesty") is now the Assistant Solicitor General in the Office of the Nebraska Attorney General.

Grant argued a case in front of the Nebraska Supreme Court—and won. He was instrumental in ensuring the sinking of a Biden-era EPA rule regulating heavy-duty truck use, claiming that the EPA's assertions about greenhouse gas use controlling the weather were flat-out wrong.

HOW YLP GOT THEM THERE

YLP interns get to work with the best policy minds in the field and have unique networking opportunities they wouldn't get anywhere else.

Grant said that YLP gave him the confidence of his conservative convictions and the intellectual backing to challenge his liberal peers at school and beyond.

"Until we reclaim academia, Heritage is the key incubator of the conservative intellectual tradition. Young people, especially those





Left: YLP ALUMNA NOELANI KAHAPEA has stayed connected with Heritage since her internship in 2015, returning for events like this alumni reception in 2017.

Below: NOELANI VISITS George Washington's grave during the 2015 YLP visit to Mount Vernon.



suffering from an education at a liberal school, must take advantage of the resources offered by Heritage," said Grant.

Noelani said that she got her first job on Capitol Hill because of her YLP background: "Without YLP, I wouldn't have had the opportunities I did when I first started my career in D.C."

THE NETWORK

One of the most important benefits of the YLP is the network it creates for young conservatives. Noelani, a Hawaiian native used to being surrounded by progressives, recalled the 2016 presidential debate put on by YLP. Surrounded by her conservative co-interns who were eagerly commenting, she said she had never experienced anything like that level of camaraderie among conservative peers.

This network continues to pay benefits. Both Grant and Noelani said that they've worked with many YLP alumni throughout their careers. Not a week goes by when Grant doesn't interact with someone in the Heritage network. He still stays in touch with the policy mentors he had at Heritage.

No two interns have the same career path ahead of them. But what many YLP alumni have in common is a shared gratitude for their time at Heritage and the hope that YLP will steward the future of the conservative movement, none of which would be possible without the generous donors of The Heritage Foundation.

"YLP was a game-changer."

-Grant Strobl, Class of 2017, Assistant Solicitor General in the Office of the Nebraska Attorney General

Your investment in YLP is changing lives and making the country a better place by filling the talent pool with smart, well-educated leaders who are helping us score wins on our policy priorities and revitalize the republic.

Just Who Are These Young Leaders?

Top 7 Undergrad Colleges and Universities:

- Hillsdale College
- 2 Liberty University
- 3 American University
- 4 Catholic University of America
- George Washington University
- 6 Christendom College
- 7 Texas A&M

Top Extracurriculars







Class of 2024 had...



3 Small Business Owners



9 Student Leaders



A Warship Communications Officer



A Demolitions Contractor



A Debate Coach

States with the most interns in 2024: Virginia, California, Texas, Illinois, and Pennsylvania



In the latest class of YLP grads...

98%

reported being more committed than ever to their conservative values 100%

felt more prepared than ever to **defend those beliefs**



YLP INTERNS gather for graduation, celebrating their learning and growth throughout the semester at Heritage.

Celebrating Record Growth for YLP

O SAY THAT HERITAGE'S TRAINING programs for young adults are experiencing explosive growth is an understatement. In the past two years, the number of applicants for the Young Leaders Program more than doubled, driving the acceptance rate to an all-time low of 8%. Enrollment in the online Heritage Academy program climbed 49%. And Heritage's inaugural High School Fellowship had to turn away more than two-thirds of the applicants.

But YLP's success isn't just quantitative. It's qualitative.

"Beyond the numbers, one of our big successes has been the integration of programs across The Heritage Foundation to serve the Conservative Movement better than before," says Ross Hougham, assistant director for student programs.

Several changes took YLP from good to great. Things like implementing rolling admissions, streamlining the application process, raising intern pay, and providing

more fellowship and follow-up. Because of your support, we are also investing \$1M more per year in YLP than we did just four years ago.

"We can have the greatest program in the world, but if it's not building out the ranks to win back our country, it's not fulfilling the mission, as far as we are concerned. We are intent on all programs working together and operating alongside partners in the movement to build conservative change makers," Hougham said.

And the network of YLP alumni—who number in the thousands—is a driving force behind Heritage's policy priorities.

"Behind every single one of those battles is a lineup of YLP alumni who are wielding the skills they learned in this internship," Hougham said.

Hougham and internship program manager Mary Catherine Machalec are quick to express their heartfelt gratitude to donors.

"This is truly not possible without their support," said Machalec.

Interns Supported by You!

The Oscar Ancira Intern

Jack Haggard

Thomas Aquinas College

The Taylor Anderson Interns

Hudson Crozier

University of North Texas

Ann Moreno

Catholic University of America

Noah Slayter

Catholic University of America

Caesar Arredondo Interns

Maria Victoria Almeida Vasquez Georgetown University

Allison Engle

Liberty University

Juan Pablo Rodriguez Bernal

American University

Renzo Rodriguez

University of Maryland

Ana Sofía Santiago-Russe

University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez

Gloria Valverde

Florida International University

The Kenneth A. Boatright Interns

Timothy Furr

Whitworth College

Mary Mobley

The Master's University

The Jim & Marcia Borel Intern

Caleb-Hunter Buck

Liberty University

John and Barbara Bruning Intern

Mary Elise Cosgray

St. John XXIII College Preparatory



Mary H. Campbell Foundation Intern

Carson Darnold

Baylor University

Richard Earl Carter Meese Center Intern

Larisa Perez

Hillsdale College

Clough Family Intern

Larson Church

Lee University



Gene D'Agostino Meese **Center Intern**

Christopher Adams

University of Maryland

The Dillon Foundation Interns

Breda Brosey

Catholic University of America

Justin Henle

University of Mary Washington

Eibhilin McCloskey

Christendom College

John R. and M. Margrite Davis **Foundation Intern**

Ruben Frivold

Liberty University

Gary L. Dawson Interns

Isabella Flynn

University of Dallas

Daniel Guzman

American University

Franklet Intern

Grace Emery

University of Arizona

Berniece and William Grewcock Interns

Ashley DeVore

Hillsdale College

Lucy Griffin

Hillsdale College

Bradley Haley

Hillsdale College

Adeline Kaufman

Hillsdale College

Lloyd Rowland

Hillsdale College

The Erika and Roger Greaves Interns

Lindsey Allen

Liberty University

Keara Gentry

Hillsdale College

Linda Boyce Haller Intern

Sean Scully

Catholic University of America

The Robert S. and Barbara J. Hathorne Family Intern

Elizabeth Tarr

University of Illinois

Marjorie W. Herrick Intern

Asher Thompson

Judson University

The Huston Foundation Interns

Jacob Groninga

University of Texas at Tyler

Naomi Shoger

University of Maryland

Lauren and Brent B. Johnson Family Foundation Intern

Grace Blythe

University of Iowa

Veronica Sadownikow

American University

Zane Zachary

University of Notre Dame

David A. King Interns

Michael Kish

Catholic University of America

Nikolas von Spakovsky

Belmont Abbey College

Kevin Klein Intern

Liana Gordan

Tyndale University

Kevin Kookogey Meese Center Intern

Maggie Quirk

Liberty University

Kuchta Family Intern

Sara Jenkins

James Madison University

The David and Rebecca Laschinger Intern

Elizabeth Oliver

Georgetown University

Robert Mair Meese Center Interns

Catherine Schumacher

Catholic University of America

Ian Stimson

Colgate University

Mayer Intern

Julianna Lee

Princeton University

The Carolyn and Hal McVey Interns

LJ Brouillette

Liberty University

Christian Flores

Texas A&M University

Dominic Seibold

University of California at Los Angeles

The Martin and Janet Michel Intern

Benjamin Ottosson

University of North Carolina

Robert S. and Janet L. Miller Foundation Interns

Jonas Bubach

Pepperdine University

Marshall Carter

University of North Florida

Caleb Erickson

Brigham Young University

Bridget Lucas

Catholic University of America

Josef Milstein

Davidson University

Brice Oale

University of Alabama

Olivia Schilling

Iowa State University

Elizabeth Shoup

University of Pennsylvania

Carly Smith

Shorter University

Bennett Watts

Patrick Henry College

The Montreal Economic Institute Intern

Caden Wolf

University of Georgia

Carter & Moyers Interns

Tru Dabney

American University

Caleb Ward

Brigham Young University-Idaho

The Dona and Peter Newell Intern

Macy Gunnell

University of Notre Dame

The Susan and David Perdue Intern

Thomas Rafacz

University of Notre Dame

Pilgrim Foundation Interns

Allison Lawrence

Brigham Young University

Mary Reed

Liberty University

Doris and Richard Pistole Intern

Emily Hall

Hillsdale College

The Larry Polhill Interns

Morgan Johnson

Homeschool High School

William B. Thompson VI

Pepperdine University

Ray Foundation Interns

Hope Canlas

Hillsdale College

Lillian Everett

Florida Gulf Coast

Ashlynn Stradinger

Florida State University

Haskell Robinson Interns

Paul Joshua Bustamante

Hillsdale College

Alexander Gonzales

Georgia Institute of Technology

Elizabeth Holland

Georgetown University

The John and Virginia Rigsby Interns

Matthew Lee

United States Naval Academy

Georgina Simonson

Florida Atlantic University

The Jill and Howard Sadkin Interns

Shelby Barrow

Georgia Institute of Technology

Alma Conway

Harvard University

Ashley Poole

Hillsdale College

Jordan Saunders Intern

Stephanie Samsel

Towson University

Greg Sheehan Meese Center Intern

Bethany Huang

University of California Irvine

Shining City on a Hill Interns

Elizabeth Gillanders

Liberty University

Amelia Kuntzman

Michigan State University

Vincent Perrone

Hope College

Frederick Woodward

University of Michigan

Harry E. Sims Congressional **Programs Intern**

Natalie Price

American University

Harry Sims and Sharon Brimhall Intern

Kvle Evers

Whitworth University



The Lloyd and Bea Smith Intern

Julia Jacobson

University of Notre Dame

Joseph Wambold Intern

Joel Highfill

Regent University

The Ron Weinel Intern

Elliot Detjen

Harvard University

The Ronald and Dorothy Weinel Intern

Philip Eigen

American University

The Winzenried Internship

Nathan Rohrer

Rock Valley College

Interns Reflect

FROM THE YOUNG LEADERS OF 2024



YLP made me more aware of the deep philosophical roots of the conservative movement and how these ideas influence policies today. It instilled a sense of urgency in me to deepen my understanding of first principles, and I'm excited to do so."

> -Sarah Kuehberger, Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom Intern, Spring 2025



I would absolutely recommend this program to a friend and intend to spread the word when I return to school! I will encourage conservative students in the College Republicans or my fraternity to apply if they have interest in working in D.C."

> -William Thompson, Project 2025 Intern, Summer 2024



YLP exposed me to a work environment that I will not forget. I appreciated that it promoted growth, faith, and charity within the workplace and supported discussion of the same. I learned what I do want in my future employment, and I have a new openness to working in the conservative movement. YLP really refined my professional desires and shaped my personal philosophy on many pressing matters."

-Rory Smist,

Membership Intern, Spring 2025



I came in with high expectations, but this program was more then I imagined, best summer and best experience."

> Ashlynn Stradinger, Workplace Services Intern, Summer 2024



The staff, fellow interns, policy experts, and experiences in and out of the office are exceptional. Heritage has taken such good care of us and clearly values us as people and not just as interns."

> -Stephanie Samsel, Marketing Intern, Summer 2024



This has been the best career experience of my life, and my worldview on conservative policy has become honed. I love the community, the work environment, and the issues highlighted here, and would recommend this internship to every person who wants to work in D.C. or just wants a better view of how to change America towards something good, true, and beautiful."

-Rachel Guerra,

Truluck Intern, Summer 2024



Sponsor an intern today!

Sponsor **one intern** for a semester with a gift of **\$10,000**Sponsor **three interns** for one year with a gift of **\$25,000 Permanently name an intern** with a gift of **\$200,000**

Y SPONSORING AN INTERN, YOU WILL ENABLE YOUNG CONSERVATIVES TO spend a semester learning and working at Heritage. He or she will bear your name or that of a loved one and send you personal updates throughout the term. Please contact your Heritage representative or a staff member at 1-800-546-2843 for more information.