



LEONARD D. SCHAEFFER
FELLOWS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

BY THE NUMBERS

2021 COHORT

RESILIENCE IN SERVICE

VIRTUAL EVENTS

ALUMNI NEWS

FROM OUR FOUNDER



Leonard D. Schaeffer
Founder

When I was an undergraduate, I worked as a government intern. I learned how government operates and was exposed to the significance of public service work and its impact on society. My mentors introduced me to their colleagues who helped me develop the skills required in both the public and private sectors. The Schaeffer Fellows in Government Service program seeks to provide a similar experience for our Fellows. In seven years, we have placed 270 Schaeffer Fellows at more than 125 different internship sites and introduced them to an alumni mentor from their university.

In the Summer of 2021, we were proud to support high-level government internships for 45 Schaeffer Fellows. Most were placed in remote internship positions, with some in hybrid work settings. Our university partners helped to expand the program to new internship sites, and we complimented the internship experience with the Schaeffer Fellows Summit Series, a set of virtual professional development sessions which we hosted throughout the summer.

This year's Schaeffer Fellows Summit focused on fostering civil discourse in public service. Our institutional partners at the Brookings Institution, RAND, and the Partnership for Public Service led discussions about election integrity, racial and ethnic injustice, visionary leadership, and the role research plays in developing public policy and public opinion. Our online community of alumni helped to mentor the Fellows about post graduate opportunities in public service.

As you will see in the pages that follow, our Schaeffer Fellows had a remarkable impact on the offices they supported and the communities they served. At the local, state, and federal levels of government, Schaeffer Fellows contributed to government efforts to support those impacted by COVID-19. They responded to constituent needs and community issues and utilized their talents to support public policy research and promote civil discourse.

I am confident that our Fellows, as informed citizens, will provide the resiliency and leadership that this country needs as it faces years of rebuilding after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo by 2021 Princeton
Fellow Gwyn Reeves

MISSION

The Leonard D. Schaeffer Fellows in Government Service program exposes undergraduate students to government work and its impact through 10-week, full-time, high-level internship placements with elected officials and agencies at the federal, state, and local levels. While not all Schaeffer Fellows pursue a career in government, the program creates the opportunity for participants to become engaged citizens and develop an informed view of government service and operations.

IMPACT

Since 2015, the Leonard D. Schaeffer Fellows program has supported 270 Fellows in over 125 different government offices and agencies. The program supports up to fifty Schaeffer Fellows each summer, and program alumni remain engaged through events and as mentors.

BENEFITS

Schaeffer Fellows benefit from a variety of professional development offerings including:

- Fellowship stipend and accessories
- Virtual Orientation
- Schaeffer Fellows Resource Guide
- Schaeffer Fellows Online Community
- Alumni Mentor & Alumni Programming
- Supportive Supervisor
- Schaeffer Fellows Summit
- Fall Recognition Event

BY THE NUMBERS



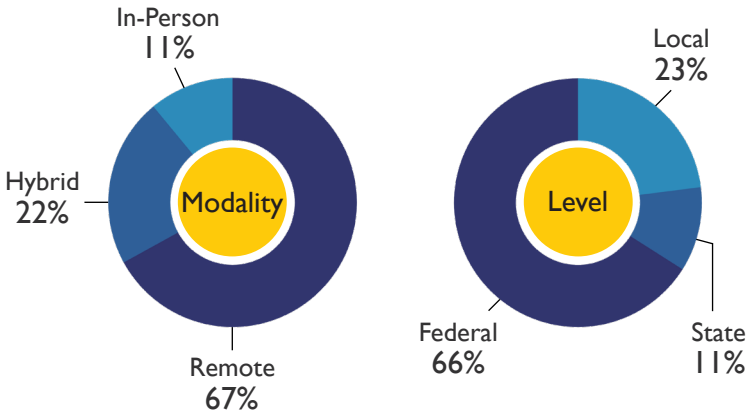
2021 Harvard Fellow Felix
Bulwa with California
Governor Gavin Newsom

45

Schaeffer Fellows
supported in 2021

442

Collective weeks of
public service completed



89%

Greater
clarity on
professional
goals



93%

Better
understanding
of engaged
citizenship



96%

Considering
work in
public
service



100%

Assigned
meaningful
tasks during
internship

The Leonard D. Schaeffer Fellows program partners with five universities to select a national cohort. In 2021, 45 undergraduates were supported to complete a full-time government internship, and participate in a robust summer professional development curriculum.



“The Schaeffer Fellowship was extremely professional, and the supervisors were invested and always available. Events were thoroughly planned, there was a high degree of reflection demanded, and the other Fellows were stimulating and like-minded.”

- **Angela Caloia**, Harvard University
Florida Supreme Court



SADIE POLEN
Internships and Career
Services Manager
Harvard University Partner

“What continually impresses me about the Schaeffer Fellows program is how present the needs and wants of students are to the program’s design. The team is always gathering and incorporating feedback to grow and improve an already strong program - while keeping its mission central to that growth.”



Harvard University Institute of Politics

- Maia Alberts** | Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service
- Daniel Brunnick** | U.S. Department of Commerce
- Felix Bulwa** | Governor of California, Gavin Newsom
- Angela Caloia** | Florida Supreme Court
- Amen Gashaw** | Governor of Maryland, Larry Hogan
- Jennifer Hughes** | Congressman Chris Pappas
- Fariba Mahmud** | U.S. Department of Defense, Office of the Comptroller
- Sethu Odayappan** | Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
- Araoluwa Omotowa** | Senator Elizabeth Warren
- William Swett** | U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York



Pace Center for Civic Engagement

- Katherine Dailey** | Congressman Tom Malinowski
- Violet Gautreau** | Chief Magistrate Judge Cheryl L. Pollak, Eastern District of New York
- Esha Jain** | Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi
- Grace Morris** | Congressman Andy Kim
- Erik Peters** | White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
- Gwyndolyn Reeves** | Senator Sherrod Brown
- Henry Slater** | Congressman Bonnie Watson Coleman
- Chloe Smith-Frank** | Chief Magistrate Judge Cheryl L. Pollak, Eastern District of New York
- Matthew Wilson** | Congressman Ken Buck
- Neenah Young** | Congressman Bonnie Watson Coleman



Academic Honors and Fellowships

- Manushri Desai** | U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy
- Clayton Gasho** | U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Intergovernmental and External Affairs
- Ashley Heravi** | U.S. Office of Personnel Management
- Sumaya Hussaini** | U.S. Department of State, Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs
- Sangeeta Kishore** | U.S. Agency for International Development
- Emily Lieberman** | California Attorney General’s Office of Communications
- Michael Lopez** | Mayor of San Diego, Todd Gloria
- Anant Natt** | California Department of Transportation
- Brigitte Rodriguez** | Los Angeles District Attorney
- Madina Zermeno** | Congressman Ilhan Omar



The Miller Center and UVA Career Center

- Vani Agarwal** | Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Lindsay Asmussen** | U.S. Department of Energy
- Julia Calland** | U.S. Department of Justice, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section
- Patricia Edouard** | Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Skylar Jackman** | U.S. Department of Energy
- Dana Korotovskikh** | Fluvanna County Economic Development
- Valencia Lagbo** | Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History
- Lauren O’Neil** | Richmond City Councilmember Stephanie Lynch
- Neeka Samimi** | Arlington County Department of Human Services
- Rachel Smith** | U.S. Trade and Development Agency



**Matsui Center
for Politics and Public Service**

- Naz Balkam** | City of San Jose, Housing Department
- Yessica Mox** | Riverside City Councilmember Gaby Plascencia
- Mia Ndalugi** | Orange County Public Defender
- Arianna Rubalcava** | Los Angeles City Attorney
- Annett Tamayo** | Mayor of Richmond, Tom Butt

In 2021, the U.C. Berkeley cohort was selected to intern in California local offices through a new program partnership with the Matsui Center.



CHRISTINE TROST
Director,
Matsui Center



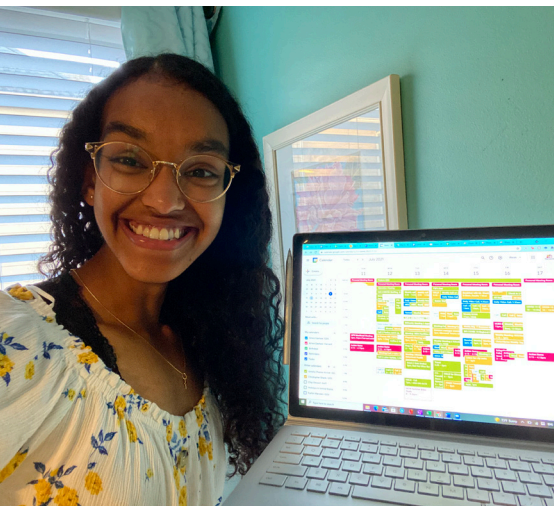
SONIA MOCTEZUMA
Program Manager,
Matsui Center

“One of the key goals of the Matsui Center is to train and nurture the next generation of public service leaders who reflect the diversity of our state and nation. Our new partnership with the Schaeffer Fellows program has made it possible to expand this work. [We] have enjoyed being part of a consortium that allows us to learn from and share ideas with other university partners.

We look forward to expanding the size of our cohort from five to ten students, and to providing our Schaeffer Fellows with transformative internship experiences, along with mentorship, professional development, and the opportunity to be part of a national network of outstanding and dedicated public service leaders.”

- **Christine Trost**

FEATURED FELLOWS



AMEN GASHAW

Harvard University
*Office of Maryland Governor
Larry Hogan*

- Designed graphics
- Planned events
- Conducted research and analyzed data
- Drafted statutes and policies
- Corresponded between offices to aid in partnership building

“The most valuable element of my internship was the interdisciplinary nature of the work I was assigned from various state agencies and actors. It was a great opportunity to exercise my mind in a number of subjects at once and improved both my ability to draw connections that might not be obvious and my skills as a multi-tasker.”



MICHAEL LOPEZ

University of Southern California
*Office of San Diego Mayor
Todd Gloria*

- Monitored appointment process for Balboa Park Committee
- Conducted constituent outreach
- Collaborated with city staff and committees

“The most valuable element of my internship was being paired with the Director of Boards and Commissions. Through this partnership, I was exposed to an entirely new dynamic between the public and the Mayor through advisory boards that allow members of the public to take a more active role and guide the Mayor’s policy decisions.”



YESSICA MOX

University of California, Berkeley
*Riverside City Councilmember
Gaby Plascencia*

- Contributed to community projects
- Researched and reported on policy initiatives
- Created marketing materials and social media
- Transcribed council meetings

“The most meaningful part of my internship was having meetings with community residents. This last year was such a difficult time, and I was able to see how hard it was for the local offices to connect with residents, thus community meetings were important to understand the different dilemmas that people were encountering. I enjoyed being involved in projects that were helping people directly and bringing forth positive impacts.”



MATTHEW WILSON

Princeton University
*Office of Congressman
Ken Buck (CO)*

- Researched policy memos and voting recommendations
- Drafted press releases, official letters and statements
- Prepped for interviews
- Attended briefings, hearings, and Whips meetings

“Interning in Congressman Ken Buck’s office was a wonderful experience and taught me so much about how our legislative system works. The most valuable experience was supporting the legislative team in their work on Congressman Buck’s antitrust bills.”



SKYLAR JACKMAN

University of Virginia
*United States Department of
Energy*

- Met with state representatives to discuss energy efficiency
- Researched energy equity
- Presented on non-governmental response to President Biden’s Infrastructure Plan

“I talked directly to state energy representatives and was given a direct look into what it would be like working in [the U.S. Department of Energy] full-time. The research also taught me a lot about bills and policy being passed that I was unaware of, so I feel more politically involved and knowledgeable.”



COMMUNICATIONS



RESEARCH



MEETINGS & EVENTS



COMMUNITY
PROJECTS

VIRTUAL EVENTS

GROUNDING IN KEY THEMES

The Schaeffer Fellows program coordinates a robust professional development curriculum grounded in four key themes that encourage deep reflection and connecting the internship to future experiences.



Reflecting on
Vision & Values



Exploring
Leadership Lessons



Collaborating &
Networking



Developing
Transferable Skills

FELLOWS' FEEDBACK ON SUMMIT

91%

Have a better understanding of how
core values inform decision making

84%

Learned to play a leadership role from
any position within an organization

93%

Learned about at least one post-
graduate opportunity of interest

100%

Identified transferable skills from
internship experience to use in future
academic and professional career

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



Brookings
Institution



RAND
Corporation



Partnership for
Public Service

SUMMIT SERIES

VISION & VALUES: FOSTERING CIVIL DISCOURSE IN PUBLIC SERVICE



The 2021 Schaeffer Fellows Summit Series began with a dynamic discussion led by Robert Shrum and Michael Murphy, two of the nation's most experienced and respected political experts and Co-Directors of the USC Center for the Political Future.

The discussion focused on bringing people together for respectful dialogue, and emphasized that people are policy and good government requires participation. Schaeffer Fellows with all their talents, are prepared to be great drivers for civil discourse in our society.

EXPLORING LEADERSHIP LESSONS: PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

The Partnership's Virginia Hill led a workshop focused on building a network, creating positive change, and managing up. She also facilitated a panel of public service professionals to discuss their lessons learned in pursuing a life in civil service. Panelists included:

- **Michael Bailey:** VP of Young Government Leaders (YGL) & Legislative and External Affairs Liaison, Washington Department of Revenue
- **Ella Holman:** Human Resource Strategist, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, U.S. House of Representatives
- **Aubrey Wilson:** Director of Oversight and Modernization, Committee on House Administration, U.S. House of Representatives

COLLABORATING & NETWORKING: BROOKINGS RESEARCHERS



The Brookings Institution presented and facilitated Q&A with the 2021 cohort about their subject matter expertise:

- **General John Allen**, President of the Brookings Institution; retired U.S. Marine Corps four-star general and former commander of the NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and U.S. Forces in Afghanistan
- **Dr. Andre Perry**, Senior Fellow at Brookings Metro and a nationally known and respected commentator on race, structural inequality, and education
- **Dr. Fiona Hill**, Senior Fellow at the Center on the United States and Europe in the Foreign Policy Program at Brookings; previously deputy assistant to the president and senior director for European and Russian Affairs on the National Security Council from 2017-2019

DEVELOPING TRANSFERABLE SKILLS: RAND SUMMER ASSOCIATES

Schaeffer Fellows were assigned an interest-based Pod for small-group discussions throughout the summer. During one Summit session, each Pod met with RAND Graduate Summer Associates to discuss pursuing graduate school and conducting research in various fields such as public health, law and society, international relations, political science, artificial intelligence, and engineering.



FALL RECOGNITION EVENTS

Each University hosted a virtual closing event to recognize Fellows' contributions to public service. Fellows shared meaningful work experiences and reflected on key takeaways.

ALUMNI AMBASSADORS

2021 Alumni Ambassadors participated in Virtual Orientation, the Schaeffer Fellows Summit, and informally in interactions with current Fellows to shed light on the short- and long-term impact of participating in the program and advice on how to make the most of the experience in the future.

**NICK BRENNAN**

2020 Schaeffer Fellow
Harvard University
Current Student, Harvard Undergraduate Council

**AMY CHONG**

2018 Schaeffer Fellow
University of Southern California
2020-2021 Coro Fellow, Pittsburgh Cohort

**DIANA GAITER**

2020 Schaeffer Fellow
University of Virginia
Master in Public Policy candidate at the University of Virginia

**YUMA KIM**

2019 Schaeffer Fellow
University of Southern California
U.S. Air Force

**TIMOTHY LI**

2019 Schaeffer Fellow
Princeton University
Business Analyst at McKinsey & Company

**CAMERON MCKENZIE**

2018 Schaeffer Fellow
Princeton University
Master of Forest Science candidate at Yale University

**ITCELIA SEGOVIANO-RAMIREZ**

2018 Schaeffer Fellow
University of California, Berkeley
Director of Community Service at Stiles Hall

VIRTUAL ALUMNI LOUNGE

Cameron McKenzie hosted a small group discussion with current Fellows about moving from the internship experience to pursuing graduate studies. Cameron recommended that Fellows:

- Mold the internship experience to their individual interests through networking
- Think of a 5-10 year plan as a chance to outline aspirations and ideals
- Be thoughtful about how one applies the fellowship experience to impact their future trajectory

FEATURED ALUMNI

**2017 FELLOW ATTENDING YALE SCHOOL OF LAW**

2017 Princeton Schaeffer Fellow Pragma Malik interned in the district office of Congressman Bonnie Watson Coleman, a Princeton host office since 2016.

After graduating in 2019, Pragma spent a year as an Associate with Boston Consulting Group before beginning the J.D. program at Yale University. Many program alumni share her interest in the intersection between law and public policy.

**2020 FELLOW CHOSEN AS PRESIDENTIAL FELLOW**

2020 USC Schaeffer Fellow Tommy Nguyen was selected as a 2021-22 Presidential Fellow with the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress. His senior research focuses on analyzing the United States withdrawal from Afghanistan.

As a Fellow, Tommy interned in the office of California State Senator Holly Mitchell.

**2020 FELLOW NAMED RHODES SCHOLAR**

2020 Harvard Schaeffer Fellow Elizabeth Guo was named a 2021 Rhodes Scholar. She will pursue an M.Sc. in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics, as well as an M.Sc. in Social Science of the Internet at Oxford University.

As a Fellow, Elizabeth completed her internship virtually with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Performance Excellence Office.

STAY IN TOUCH

**SCHAEFFER FELLOWS ONLINE COMMUNITY**

The online community serves as the on-boarding site for each new cohort of Schaeffer Fellows as well as a dynamic alumni network. Members of the Schaeffer Fellows network may request access at portal.schaefferfellows.org.

OR, CONTACT US

schaefferfellows.org

admin@schaefferfellows.org

[@schaefferfellow](https://twitter.com/schaefferfellow)



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CONTACT admin@schaefferfellows.org

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