



A Program of

WIPPS

WISCONSIN INSTITUTE *for*
PUBLIC POLICY *and* SERVICE

2019 Report

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Washington Seminar students meet with Reince Priebus.



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Washington Seminar students meet with Senator Tammy Baldwin.



Washington Seminar 2019 Report

I. Background

Declining trust in government, politicians, and political processes generally—combined with a growing body of evidence that traditional measures of civic knowledge among young people is waning—are an established part of today’s public narrative.¹ This does not mean young people are uninterested in politics or the future of their nation and government.² If anything, they are often discouraged because of a perceived inability to influence outcomes and by the absence of pathways to participation. The Washington Seminar program, established by the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service (WIPPS), offered as a three-credit course through the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, is an effort to open windows and doors for college students by providing opportunities to engage with and learn from policymakers at the state and national levels.

II. Purpose and Goals

While select students at UW-Madison and Marquette University are able to participate in Washington, D.C.-based learning programs semi-annually, thousands of students at other colleges and universities in Wisconsin—both public and private—have no regular program of study in the nation’s capital.³ The Washington Seminar is designed as a study-away learning opportunity for students who do not normally enjoy structured learning experiences beyond their classroom or local community, let alone outside of Wisconsin. The program is open to all students in good standing, including promising students from at-risk backgrounds, such as first generation, low income, and minority college students. The broad goals of the Washington Seminar include:

1. Increase student knowledge about how institutions of government, interest groups, media and other forces influence decision makers and affect policy formation.
2. Motivate students to become more active participants in the civic life and leaders in their communities, state and nation.
3. Help students progress on their journey of self-development from a focus on the self to an understanding of their role in—and relationship to—a larger, more complex world.
4. Begin an exploration of career possibilities and the connection between career options and public policy.



¹ See, for example, Constance A. Flanagan, Peter Levine, “Civic Engagement and the Transition to Adulthood,” *The Future of Children*, Vol. 1, No. 20 (Spring 2010), 159-179.

² Constance A. Flanagan, Peter Levine and Richard Settersten, *Civic Engagement and the Changing Transition to Adulthood*, CIRCLE monograph, January 2009.

³ No public university in Wisconsin outside of UW-Madison offers regular learning experiences in Washington, D.C.

III. 2019 Course

A. Course Overview

The Washington Seminar public policy course is a hybrid learning experience. The course begins online with selected readings and assignments. Students then meet face-to-face in Madison and Washington, D.C. for lectures, discussions and site visits as well as close interaction with policymakers. After returning home, students complete the course online.

B. Course Schedule

The schedule for 2019 occurred as follows:

- a. Course began online May 22 and ended July 10, 2019
- b. From May 28 to June 1, students met face-to-face in Madison, Wisconsin
- c. From June 1 to June 15, students met face-to-face in Washington, D.C.
- d. From June 16 to July 10, the course resumed online

C. Course Assignments

Students were expected to complete the following assignments as part of the public policy course:

- a. Daily reading from multiple credible news sources
- b. Additional assigned readings related to course topics
- c. Three short papers: an article review, a book review, and a guest lecture review
- d. A policy paper on a topic of student interest
- e. Daily original blog entries and response posts and a final reflective blog post
- f. Attend over 35 lectures, presentations and roundtables with select policy influencers

D. Course Instruction

The course was co-taught by the following instructors:



Eric Giordano, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Political Science
UW-Stevens Point
Executive Director, WIPPS



Paul Carver, Ph.D.
Adjunct Professor of Political Science
Senior Policy Fellow, WIPPS



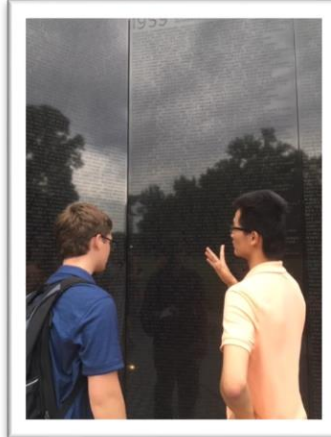
IV. Seminar Highlights

Landmark Site Visits

- African American History Museum
- Arlington National Cemetery
- Library of Congress
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Monument
- Mount Vernon
- National Botanical Gardens
- National Holocaust Museum
- National Korean War Memorial
- National Museum of the American
- National Vietnam War Memorial
- National World War II Memorial
- Newsium
- Theodore Roosevelt Island
- U.S. Capitol & Visitors Center
- Washington D.C. War Memorial
- Washington Monument
- Wisconsin State Capitol

A. Policy Site visits (sample)

- AFL-CIO
- American Hospital Association
- American Psychiatric Association
- Brookings Institution
- Capstone National Partners
- Cato Institute
- Congressional Management Foundation
- Global Trade Watch
- Library of Congress
- National Defense University
- National Milk Producers Federation
- National Press Club
- Office of the Governor of Wisconsin
- Overseas Cooperative Development Council
- RAND Corporation
- The New York Times Washington Bureau
- The Washington Post
- U.S. Congress
- U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
- Wisconsin Attorney General's Office
- Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce
- Wisconsin Supreme Court
- Wisconsin State Capitol
- World Food Program



V. Seminar Speakers/Panelists

<p>Tammy Baldwin (D) U.S. Senator Wisconsin</p>	<p>Jere Bauer, Jr. Program Supervisor WI Legislative Fiscal Bureau</p>	<p>Elise Bean Former Chief Counsel U.S. Senate Permanent Subcomm. on Investigations</p>
<p>Stephen Blakeley Director of Communications & Managing Editor Employee Benefit Research Inst</p>	<p>Winfield Boerckel Vice President Office of External Affairs Rand Corporation</p>	<p>Ellis Brachman Chief Communications Officer The Library of Congress</p>
<p>Elisabeth Bumiller Washington Bureau Chief The New York Times</p>	<p>Joe Chrisman State Auditor WI Legislative Audit Bureau</p>	<p>David Cooper Senior Economic Analyst Economic Policy Institute</p>
<p>Ray Cross President University of Wisconsin System</p>	<p>Rebecca Frank Dallet Associate Justice Wisconsin Supreme Court</p>	<p>EJ Dionne Senior Fellow Brookings Institution</p>
<p>Tony Evers Governor State of Wisconsin</p>	<p>Bradford Fitch President & CEO Congress Management Fndn.</p>	<p>Casey Frary Political Consultant</p>
<p>Mike Gallagher (R) US House of Representatives WI 8th congressional district</p>	<p>Anne Gearan White House Correspondent The Washington Post</p>	<p>Glen Grothman (R) U.S. House of Representatives WI 6th congressional district</p>
<p>Paul Hazen Executive Director Overseas Cooperative Development Council</p>	<p>Dan Kanninen Partner Smoot Tewes Group</p>	<p>Phil Karsting Vice President of Policy World Food Program</p>
<p>Josh Kaul Attorney General State of Wisconsin</p>	<p>Ron Kind (D) US House of Representatives WI 3rd congressional district</p>	<p>Simon Lester Associate Director, Stiefel Center for Trade Policy Studies Cato Institute</p>
<p>Jeff Mayers President WisPolitics</p>	<p>Gwen Moore (D) US House of Representatives WI 4th congressional district</p>	<p>James Mulhern President & CEO National Milk Producers Fed.</p>
<p>Craig Obey Chief, Government Relations American Psychiatric Assoc.</p>	<p>Jason O'Malley Political Consultant</p>	<p>Rick Pollack President and CEO American Hospital Association</p>

Jerry Petrowski (R) Wisconsin State Senator 29 th Senate district	Mark Pocan (D) U.S. House of Representatives WI 2 nd congressional district	Reince Priebus President & Chief Strategist Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
Jason Rae Secretary Democratic National Comm.	Manu Raju Senior Congressional Correspondent CNN	Bob Roach Investigator House Financial Services Committee
David Rapp Editor and Publisher (Retired) Congressional Quarterly	Chris Reader Director, Health & HR Policy WI Manufacturers & Commerce	Katie Rogers Reporter The New York Times
Kelly Ross Deputy Policy Director AFL-CIO	Anne Sappenfield Director Wisconsin Legislative Council	Patty Schactner (D) State Senator WI 10 th Senate district
Katrina Shankland (D) State Representative WI 71 st Assembly district	Damon Silvers Dir. of Policy & Spec. Counsel Policy Department AFL-CIO	Jim Sensenbrenner (R) US House of Representatives WI 5 th congressional district
Pat Snyder (R) State Representative WI 85 th Assembly district	Dr. David E. Spencer Professor William J Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies National Defense University	Bryan Steil (R) US House of Representatives WI 1 st congressional district
Will Stone Partner Capstone National Partners	Paul Strauss (D) U.S. Senator District of Columbia	Lori Wallach Director Global Trade Watch Public Citizen
Dr. Sarah Wagner Professor of Anthropology George Washington University	Barbara Worcester Deputy Chief of Staff Office of the Governor of WI	Zach Wyatt Legislative Attorney WI Legislative Reference Bureau



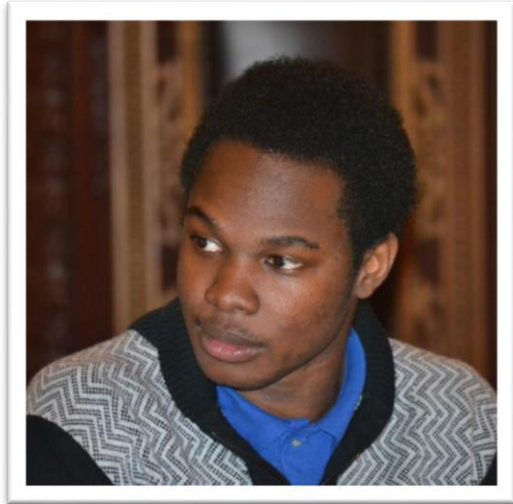
VI. Student Participants

Deon Canon

UW-Stout

Junior – Applied Social Science

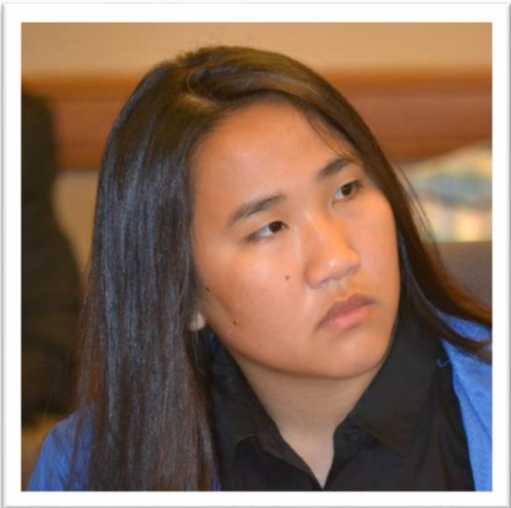
This class was 100 percent worth it and I'm glad I had the opportunity to be a part of it. By interacting with members of Congress, I learned how to see past the smoke and glamor of political figures and see them as human beings. I was a little hesitant at first to ask questions, but by the end of the trip, all of that changed. I did not know how important staffers and groups like the Wisconsin Legislative Council is to make the government efficient. Over the course, I developed a huge appreciation of the behind-the-scenes work that these individuals do. I also



“By interacting with members of Congress, I learned how to see past the smoke and glamor of political figures and see them as human

experienced a lot of self-growth during this trip and enjoyed having deep critical conversations with my peers. My fellow students' stories really touched me and their knowledge on issues was impressive. I came into this trip not knowing anyone and came

out with friends I can see myself working with in the future. The relationships I made on this trip are probably one of the most unforeseen rewards that the program offered.



Lisa Ceisel

UW-Milwaukee at Waukesha

Freshman – Pre-Business

Participating in the Washington Seminar was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The seminar exposed me to many new concepts. While meeting with Representative Mike Gallagher, for example, he discussed his supported term limits, which is something I had never thought deeply about. Meeting with a variety of speakers definitely pushed me to learn more. I also learned the importance of researching the speakers ahead of time and prewriting thoughtful questions rather than quickly coming up with questions which were not as effective. Not only did I feel my perspectives changed in Washington, D.C., I definitely

felt the shift when I came back home. This was due to the things I experienced on the trip and being exposed to a lot of different ideas. Overall, the Washington Seminar has forever changed some of my perspectives, and gave me opportunities I would have never had. One major opportunity that the seminar provided was time to network with others. I have not had many opportunities to practice networking, which is an uncommon skill for people of my generation. In general, being able to network with others will help me in the future with career opportunities.

Maria Espino

UW-Eau Claire

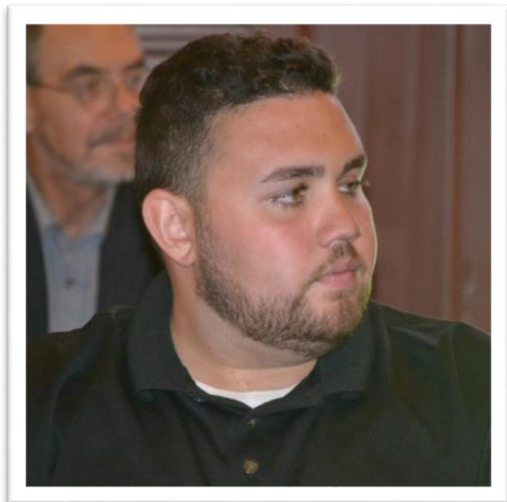
Sophomore – Mathematics and Sociology

Throughout these past weeks, I have learned so much about our government system. Being able to attend meetings with people that hold important positions is a privilege that should be used to our advantage. I enjoyed when my classmates asked tough questions and made their voices heard. I also wanted to make my voice heard - especially with topics that are very close to my heart. I realized that I have become very candid about my family and their standing in our society. I was asked why I was so honest about my parent’s immigration status. I realized that it’s because of how proud I am to have come from such strong people who were able to leave everything in hopes that I would have more options and opportunities.



“I enjoyed when my classmates asked tough questions and made their voices heard. I also wanted to make my voice heard, especially with topics that are very close to my heart.”

Future students should come to this program with an open mind to better understand different viewpoints. There should be an understanding that everyone deserves respect, yet have the freedom to disagree. Overall, the seminar was a great experience that allowed me to expand my views and better understand our government system.

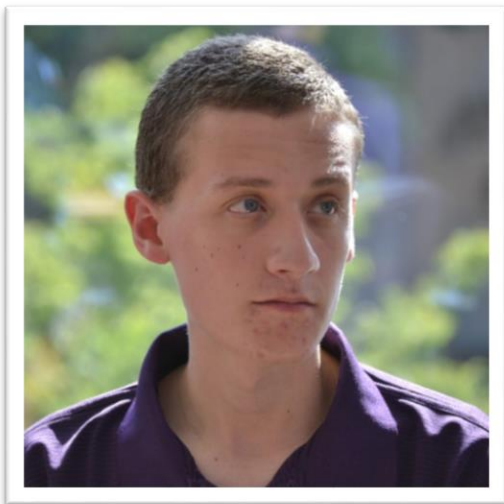


Abraham Elizondo

UW-Stevens Point

Junior – Marketing and Communications

The overall Washington Seminar experience was fun and very informative. I am glad I got to soak in what state and national policymaking is all about. Seeing how state legislatures work and meeting the governor and his staff was beyond amazing. The work for this class aligned perfectly with topics that I am passionate about such as immigration. Most immigrants are running from terror or want to provide a better life for themselves and their families. Unfortunately, those that are caught trying to enter illegally are sent to detention centers where they are not treated very well. During the Seminar, news stories revealed deplorable conditions for children who don’t get the choice to escape poverty, crime, and terror. We as a nation need to come together and provide sanctuary for these humans. In another incident, a group of refugees trying to make their way to the U.S. capsized and have been missing now. These people strive for better lives and are putting their lives in danger. We should just take a minute to thank the universe for having us being born in a fortunate situation. These people can’t choose where they are from, and we shouldn't deny them privileges to live in America just because they weren't born here. I am grateful for the opportunity I had to study these issues in more depth.



Riley Garski

UW-Stevens Point
Sophomore – Political Science and Economics

The Washington Seminar was the first time I had ever really taken myself out of my comfort zone and it was an adjustment to be in bigger cities like Madison and D.C. On the trip you explore issues up close and personal because this program allows you time to visit people and organizations on your own and learn for yourself. For instance, I and others made a point to attend committee hearings to listen to engaging testimony on America's health care system. It was moving and I learned the most through these experiences. In the end, this was truly the most interesting experience of my life. Since arriving home, I've missed D.C. and my newfound friendships a lot. My

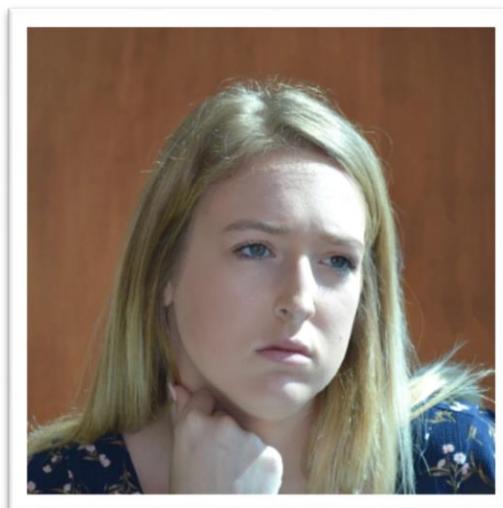
suggestion to future students is to get out and explore the city. It has so much to offer. You're going to be tired, the days are long, but don't let any of that stop you. The trip will end faster than you think, and you'll regret not going "midnight monumenting." I can't wait to go back to D.C. If you have the chance, take advantage of this trip. Thanks to everyone who made this experience possible for me!



Paige Haws

UW-Stevens Point
Sophomore – Political Science and Public Relations

There are two main things I learned through Washington Seminar. First, I learned the importance of reading, watching, and listening to credible news sources. If we do not take the time to read, listen, and watch the news, we are no better than the people we disagree with because we are not fighting for our rights and beliefs. The second thing I learned, is that listening is the only way to constructively work in politics. When we met with policymakers, I often had my mind made up on how I felt about certain topics. The best part of this trip was getting to talk with those who had different positions and viewpoints regarding various social topics such as



“The program not only educated me but pushed me to grow as an individual. It reminded me that I am not doing my civic duty if I am not striving to stay informed.”

abortion, immigration, legalization of marijuana, LGBTQ+ rights, etc. By focusing on listening, I began to understand and even accept stances other than my own and found that people are willing to open up and have a constructive conversation. I was able to educate myself and redefine the moral principles I hold. The program not only educated me but pushed me to grow as an individual. It reminded me

that I am not doing my civic duty if I am not striving to stay informed. I will remember that listening to other stances and viewpoints is what helps you define yourself and your basic principles.



Marcella Jalbut

UW-Stout

Sophomore – Applied Social Science

Coming into the course, I was able to explore many different types of career paths that we observed and heard about in our meetings. One of the most impactful to me was the meeting with the head of the American Hospital Association. I was excited about seeing different career opportunities within the health care system besides medicine or nursing. Looking back at the experience, I was able to better identify my areas of interest: social justice, gender equality and health. This trip was definitely self-enlightening since it helped not only accept that I need to change my major, but also to become more aware of the current issues which I am

the most passionate about. For instance, I am looking toward getting involved with advocating for Planned Parenthood, gender equality and health. In addition, this experience helped me to be less afraid about speaking up and respectfully creating discussions with others. When you are able to clearly argue your perspective to others, you are able to create healthier, more productive discussions.



Morgan Jeidy

UW-Stevens Point

Junior – Political Science and Environmental Studies

This experience has been, without a doubt, one of the most immersive, thought provoking, socially challenging, and rewarding experiences I have ever had. I came in with a set list of goals and left with those goals accomplished and so much more than I ever could have striven for. I have learned that a lot of where success in early political careers comes from is ambition and fearlessness. It comes from asking the Congress person you look up to what you can do . . . and also asking them for advice. I learned so much from walking around from building to building and talking to the staffers of representatives I admire. Walking through



closed doors can be intimidating, but it may just open you up to a new world of opportunities and knowledge. I learned a lot about myself on this seminar. I learned that I am very independent but also a

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leader (even when I really would rather not be). I learned that speaking and walking with conviction . . . while it may ruffle feathers, is the best and only way for me to live my life and excel in my career aspirations. Lastly, I learned that critical thinking is crucial, especially in the world of politics. We too often idolize people in power and refuse to think critically about the words they

speak. It takes time to develop the skills and the courage it takes to think critically, but I am proud of myself for being able to do so.



Maxwell Johnson

UW-Stevens Point

Junior – Political Science and Philosophy

The first meetings changed my perception of Washington. Seeing the staffers who are merely years older than me operating a congressional office made me feel this world is closer to my grasp than I previously thought. I went to the National Security Implications Climate Change hearing. That broadened my understanding of how climate change is going to impact . . . many countries’ national security. While watching hearings and listening to podcasts about politics, I could see when someone was dodging a question or shifting the conversation. My skills in that realm have just emerged and I need to dedicate more energy to honing them. My

favorite part was knowing that I could do this. Knowing that this city isn’t going to “eat me up.” I have learned a lot on this seminar. Not just about the inner workings of politics and government, but about myself. I would recommend any student who thinks that political work is in their future to take this class—even those that will be tangentially related to the world of politics should take it because it can broaden your perspective and help you understand what you want to do.

“Seeing the staffers who are merely years older than me operating a congressional office made me feel this world is closer to my grasp than I previously thought.”

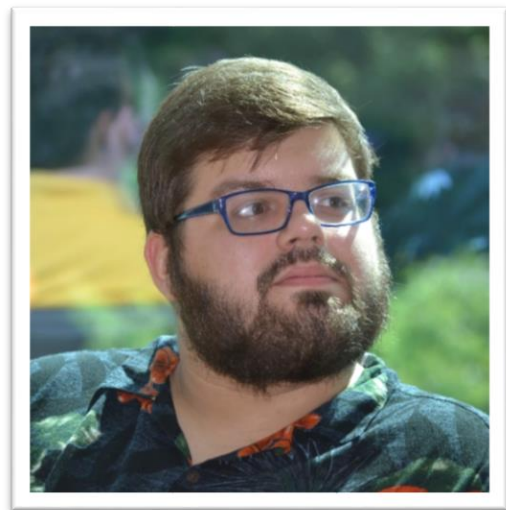


Rayvn Knipple

UW-Stevens Point

Junior – History and Political Science

I have learned a lot on this trip and my emotions and views have been thrown around and challenged. It is a great experience to get out and hear from many different perspectives and I strongly encourage people to attend this program. After numerous meetings with a wide range of different people, groups, and backgrounds, it became very clear that there aren’t just one or two specific influencers that shape a policymaker’s mindset and policy. For future students of the Washington Seminar Program, I recommend wearing comfortable shoes. My feet are still recovering from the blisters I received from walking during this trip!





Joseph Lorenzi

UW-Stevens Point

Junior – Political Science

The Washington Seminar was the greatest learning experience I’ve had. What I found most interesting on this trip was all the factors that go into policymaking. For example, we heard from professionals who work with Wisconsin’s legislative agencies and how they help lawmakers in Madison with research and legal advice. An important takeaway is that you should not be afraid to share your opinion and ideas. Everyone has a different perspective and most policymakers we talked to said you should try to see the other side’s point of view. Students on the trip had different views on politics, and I feel we all tried to listen to each other and understand each other’s positions. Even

when we disagreed on issues . . . we heard each other’s perspectives and respected those positions. I would recommend this trip to future students. It helps you become a better leader. You learn to ask the tough questions with representatives, senators, lobbyists, etc. By doing research beforehand on the speakers, you get an understanding of their positions. A great skill you need in life as a leader, or just being an active citizen, is to ask tough questions and do your research. Overall, it was an amazing experience and I highly encourage students to take this seminar. It will change your life and give you a new look on policymaking.

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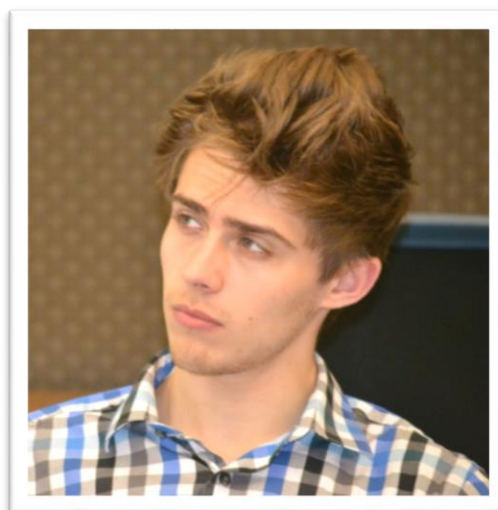


Evan Pankow

UW-River Falls

Junior – Criminology

The Washington Seminar is a unique experience that is hard to find elsewhere. The course was an exploration of the public policymaking process in the U.S. and exposed us to high level policymakers and contributors. We interacted with many individuals of great influence who had a firm grasp on the world of policymaking. We also met with representatives and senators of Wisconsin which helped keep students connected to local issues and caused a tighter bond and a sense of a singular, Wisconsin-based purpose of this class. In D.C. we met with some impressive individuals who do not directly impact Wisconsin policy, which gave us a very different experience than in Madison. Lori Wallach, from Citizens’ Trade Campaign, provided insightful understanding of international trade which I found fascinating. I was able to ask questions about international crime and intellectual property rights that she answered with expertise. I had an incredible experience in the Washington Seminar and met a lot of cool people who . . . gave us real insight and information that will help us in our future endeavors.





Rosie Pechous

UW-River Falls

Junior – English Education

First, I really enjoyed meeting with the American Psychiatric Association . . . and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the Washington Seminar. I think so many of American issues fall within the trend of declining mental health. The APA seemed very aware of the wide spectrum of what mental health is, what it does to a person and those around that person, and how it affects society as a whole. I applaud the APA for the work they've done on Capitol Hill. Second, I love the life in D.C.—it is fast, expensive, and bougie. While walking the streets to and from meetings, coffee shops, and grocery stores, everyone

was well-dressed and the energy is high. I truly think everyone should experience what D.C. is like for a few weeks. It's a whole different world. Third, I wasn't at first aware that D.C. residents didn't have voting representation in Congress. The growth of the district plus the shift in demographics of the population lead me to believe that D.C. should have voting members of Congress. The argument that someone "could move 10 miles into Virginia" to vote seems like institutionalized gerrymandering.

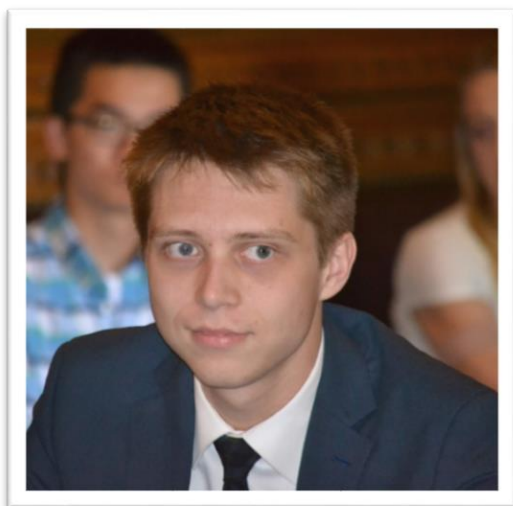


Zach Pfannerstill

UW-Stevens Point

Junior – History and Political Science

The Washington Seminar was a fascinating chance to peek behind the curtain of how things are run in a policymaking context, and to get an idea of what the people who serve us in Washington and Madison are really like. It was heartening to see how many people seemed to genuinely care about making things better, even people I disagree strongly with. I'd imagine it's a front for some policymakers, but to see some working as hard as they do to connect with the people they represent was great. Listening to everyone on the trip was cool, too. It's always great to hear other sides of an issue in a non-yelling context. Which brings me to my recommendations for any future students. Open your mind. Check your



“It was heartening to see how many people . . . seemed to genuinely care about making things better, even people I disagree strongly with.”

biases and counterarguments at the door and listen for a while, even if it can be a bit painful sometimes. You can never change someone's mind until you understand where they're coming from. "Gotcha" questions and similar techniques only shut down arguments and harden minds, making it harder to actually understand. As one of our speakers said, you need to accept that your own position might be changed by an argument

and allow for that possibility before you can change someone else's. Try and go in as a blank slate and fact check after. We are all students, after all.



Evan Pfefferkorn

UW-Stevens Point
Junior – Political Science

I have been studying political science for 3 years and can say with confidence that there is a significant difference between knowing about policymaking and actively engaging with people who influence policy. This seminar is the first time I have met with national level and state level party leaders. I learned that the political parties are constantly in electoral war. Policy and rhetoric are important but the bottom line for a political party is results in elections. Our meetings showed me that there is a real militant streak within our political parties. The reporters we met with were restricted by how their superiors want to

frame the stories they publish. Of all the different types of speakers we met, the reporters matched up the most with my expectations. The media industry always likes to talk about things which are exterior to them instead of drawing attention to their own conduct. The think tanks/research groups we visited - Cato, Brookings, Citizens Trade Watch and the RAND Corporation - had the most academically focused people. All these organizations work in applied politics – they assess the viability of policy actions and come up with solutions to various problems. Before I went on this trip, I thought most policy influencers would be academically inclined. However, it is clear that our political system requires a diverse set of skills and roles to be effective.



Karleemae Schulz

UW-Stevens Point at Wausau
Freshman – Pre-Law

I'm grateful I got to spend two weeks in a place I have loved since I was eight years old. Throughout the trip, I gained perspective on the different jobs within the political system that require a law degree. I enjoyed the meetings in Madison with the legislative agencies because not only did I not know they existed, I was truly interested in their jobs. I also learned the importance of internships for my future career and I hope to eventually end up working in Washington D.C. Having to go off on my own taught me more self-awareness and although I was the youngest



“This trip taught me how to be open to other opinions, but also how to stick to my guns even when everyone else is telling you that your opinion is wrong.”

person on the trip, I'm glad I took the opportunity to go. This trip taught me how to be open to other opinions, but also how to stick to my guns even when everyone else is telling you that your opinion is wrong.



Nathaniel Skutley

UW-Milwaukee at Washington County
Sophomore – Political Science

A week after the Washington Seminar trip, I still find myself with political fever. Seeing government up close on the state and federal levels simplified it all and made me realize it is not too much for me. I seek a career in government and then to run for office one day. One thing that I learned was the human aspect of politicians. Most of the representatives seemed generally interested in what we had to say, especially if we were their constituents. It's such a valuable experience to meet with them one-on-one. It was also great to hear of innovative ideas from younger representatives. Representative Mike Gallagher is passionate about term limits. Representative Mark Pocan wants to change the

congressional schedule to two weeks in D.C. and two weeks in home districts, and Representative Bryan Steil wants to make the budget biannual. The Washington Seminar is an INCREDIBLE experience and one I will never forget. It has opened doors for me to a political career and a career in government because I now have the confidence to simply go and do the work. In fact, I am going back to Madison next week to meet with some state representatives. This is just the beginning for me and I have the Washington Seminar to thank for launching me into this passion.

“The Washington Seminar has opened doors for me to a political career and a career in government because I now have the confidence to simply go and do the work.”



Willie Zhang

UW Milwaukee at Washington County
Sophomore – Undecided

The experience was great. I enjoyed meeting and interacting with representatives from various policymaking perspectives. We talked with high level policy leaders, such as my own representative, Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner and other people from my state like Senator Tammy Baldwin. I appreciated that we got to speak with both Republicans and Democrats. It was also interesting to meet with people I have read and heard about such as E.J. Dionne, reporters from The New York Times and The Washington Post and influential leaders such as Reince Priebus. It was great to see people in different locations—sometimes at their offices and workplaces, and other times for lunch or at historical sites. It made the experience more real and interesting. Overall, the Washington Seminar helped me learn more about our government than I had ever imagined. If I could do it again, I definitely would.



VII. Student Demographics

Program Year	2019	2018	2017	2016
Students	18	10	14	12
Female	6	4	6	6
Male	11	6	8	6
Transgender	1	0	0	0
African Descent	1	1	1	0
Asian Descent	2	0	2	2
Hispanic/Latinx	2	1	1	1
Native American	0	1	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
White	13	7	10	9
Nontraditional	0	2	4	3
International	1	1	2	1
Schools				
UW Colleges	0	6	11	10
UW-Eau Claire	1	1	0	0
UW-Green Bay	0	0	1	0
UW-Parkside	0	0	0	0
UW-Lacrosse	0	0	0	0
UW-Madison	0	0	0	0
UW-Milwaukee	3	0	0	0
UW-Oshkosh	0	1	0	0
UW-Platteville	0	0	0	0
UW-River Falls	2	0	1	0
UW-Stevens Point	7	2	1	
UW-Stout	2	0	0	0
UW-Superior	0	0	0	0
UW-Whitewater	0	0	0	0
Private University	0	1	1	2



VIII. Program Adjustments

A. Class Size

We had the largest number of attendees in our four-year history at 18 total. The increase in attendance this year was the result of dedicated promotion by the UW-Stevens Point political science faculty members to their students, which brought on board approximately six additional students. This speaks to the importance of personal connectivity between students and faculty and building effective relationships with faculty at various universities.

B. Teaching Assistant

We brought on a teaching assistant this year to help manage a larger class size. There were several instances when the group needed to be divided in order to meet with members of the Wisconsin delegation whose offices are too small to accommodate large groups. With a higher enrollment, this is a necessary and worthwhile investment.

C. Suggestions for Improvement

At the end of the course, we ask students to write a final reflective blog to include suggestions for improving the Seminar course and experience. We also asked faculty and other program organizers to share their suggestions. The following are suggestions that we wish to adopt next year:

1. Greater Speaker Diversity

Students suggested that we include greater diversity among our guest speakers, particularly speakers from underrepresented populations. We agree and will work toward this goal.

2. Primer on Networking

During the trip, students are asked to attend receptions with professionals in Madison and D.C. However, many students do not understand the importance of, or know how to engage in, the art of networking. We will address this deficiency next year by incorporating a primer on networking.

3. Hands-on Component

Students suggested adding a “hands-on” component to the course, for example, providing an opportunity for students to work in groups to address policy issues of interest, develop options and recommendations, and present potential solutions to the class. We will explore some experiential learning options.

4. Appreciating Historical Sites and Memorials

During the Seminar, we offer a narrated tour of the Vietnam Memorial by George Washington University anthropologist Sarah Wagner, who has written books on repatriating war remains and memorializing fallen soldiers. She helps students to take a deep reflective dive into the purpose and meaning of the site. Students suggested that we include this experience earlier in the course as it made a significant difference in how they approach and interpret other memorials.

D. A New Academic Home

With the merger of the UW Colleges and the four-year schools, the Washington Seminar requires a new academic home. We gratefully partnered this year with UW-Milwaukee at Waukesha and are exploring long term options for 2020.



IX. Program Costs

A. Course Affordability: Student Tuition and Fees = \$2,750.

A major goal for Washington Seminar planners is to keep program costs as low as possible and provide scholarships to those who cannot pay full freight. Many qualified students face substantial financial barriers that preclude them from these types of learning experiences.⁴ This year we increased the cost of the program \$100 per student to help ensure the program remains revenue neutral.

Although the course remains relatively inexpensive compared to other study-away programs, there are additional costs for which students must budget. For example, with the exception of a few breakfasts in Madison and two planned group meals, students must cover their own meal costs. Students consistently report that they prefer meals NOT be included in the overall program fees, which allows flexible budgeting and food-sharing options. In D.C., students must also pay for their own transportation to and from meetings. We provided students with a Metro card pre-loaded with \$10, after which they added their own money to cover daily fares. Although this adds to their financial burden, students seemed to appreciate having control over their preferred mode of transportations, which ranged from walking to Uber and Lyft to rental scooters. For this reason, we do not foresee modifying the course fees to include transportation costs.

B. Program Costs

1. Included in the 2018 program cost were the following:
 - a. Tuition for a 3-credit Public Policy course (through UW-Milwaukee at Waukesha)
 - b. Roundtrip airfare from Wisconsin to Washington, D.C.
 - c. D.C. Metro card with one weekend fare (\$10 value)
 - d. Four breakfasts in Madison plus two additional free group meals
 - e. Housing in Madison and Washington, D.C. for 18 total nights
 - f. Potomac River Cruise and tour of Mt. Vernon
 - g. All other costs associated with the course, including instructor salaries, teaching assistant, recruitment and marketing, supplies and materials, logistical support and general program administration
2. Not included in the 2018 program costs:
 - a. Books – overall, students were required to spend about \$25 for required readings.
 - b. Most meals
 - c. Roundtrip travel between students' home and Madison
 - d. Metro/transportation in Washington, DC

C. 2019 Program Revenue

Ultimately, the course enrolled 18 students in 2018, putting the program beyond the break-even point. It is also important to note that co-instructor Paul Carver and others provided much of their teaching time gratis, which reduces the overhead costs. For these reasons, the course achieved positive revenue balance in 2019.



⁴ An excellent report on the barriers to entry to D.C. internships, for example, can be found here: <http://www.npr.org/2017/07/25/539334360/on-capitol-hill-most-summer-interns-still-go-unpaid>.

X. Program Sustainability

A. Scholarship Donors

1. Importance of Scholarships

Given the difficulty among a significant portion of interested students to cover the Washington Seminar costs, it remains clear that the success in recruiting students and achieving program sustainability depends on our ability to raise dollars for student scholarships. To this end, we remain extremely grateful for the generous support provided by several organizations.

2. Scholarship Donors

- a. **Herb Kohl Educational Foundation**, based in Milwaukee, generously donated \$10,000.
- b. **Murco Foundation**, based in Wausau, generously donated \$5,000.
- c. **Wisconsin Academy of Global Education and Training**, based in Milwaukee, generously donated \$2,750.
- d. **UW-Marathon County Foundation**, generously donated \$3,000.
- e. **Friends of Bill Kraus Scholarship**, generously donated \$1,000.

Total Scholarship Donations = \$21,750

3. Allocating Scholarships

Thanks to our generous funders, we were able to help fund all students who requested financial aid in 2019. None were turned away due to lack of funding.

B. Other Key Donors

1. In kind Donations

- a. **Godfrey & Kahn** generously donating their Washington office conference room for classes and guest lectures—this makes the fourth year that Godfrey & Kahn has supported the program.
- b. **UW System Office of the President** hosted a student reception at Brittingham House and provided transportation to and from the event.
- a. **WisPolitics** President Jeff Mayers hosted our students and moderated a breakfast media event featuring CNN's Manu Raju.
- b. **Capstone National Partners** (Partner John Weinfurter) hosted a reception for students.

2. Individual Contributions

We are grateful to the many individuals who generously gave their time to meet with the students as part of the course curriculum. A few individuals went the extra mile, spending many hours behind the scenes helping to organize and support the program:

- a. **Dave Anderson**, Senior Policy Fellow, WIPPS
- b. **Jeff Buhrandt**, Director of Government Relations, UW System,
- c. **Paul Carver**, Senior Congressional Fellow, WIPPS
- d. **Julie Jonuzi**, Program Assistant, UW System
- e. **Steven Kuhn**, Controller, UW Colleges
- f. **Leah Mellas**, Assistant Registrar, UW Colleges
- g. **Stephen Schmid**, Interim Dean, UW-Milwaukee, College of General Studies
- h. **Will Stone**, President, National Capstone Partners



XI. Conclusion

Students who complete the Washington Seminar continue to report that the course is “life-changing” (see excerpts from their final blog post in this report). In addition, they strongly endorse the program to undergraduates across Wisconsin.

With the largest group of students ever for the 2019 program, we believe the demand for growth is strong. We are also excited for the opportunity to partner with UW-Milwaukee to bring on more—and more diverse—students from across the state into the program.



Upper Row (from left to right): Manu Raju, CNN; Governor Tony Evers with students, Representative Gwen Moore with students, Representative Bryan Steil with student Nathan Skutley; Lower Row (from left to right): Students on balcony near Potomac waterfront; Representative Alexandria Ocasio–Cortez with student Maria Espino; Representative Jim Sensenbrenner with students; Wisconsin Assemblyman Pat Snyder with student Abraham Elizondo.

