



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2020

A Note From the Director...

We are living in “novel” times, to be sure. No doubt, however, this will not be the last time we will have to confront a novel crisis. If anything, the current situation highlights the need to develop the next generation of Valley leaders who will be equipped to address future challenges in a fact-based, problem-solving and bi-partisan way.

Despite the upheaval brought about by the pandemic, the Maddy Institute’s Legislative Intern Program continues. Sen. Maddy’s vision of providing college students from the Valley with the opportunity to learn, firsthand, how the political and legislative process work—albeit in a new (sometimes virtual) way.



Now, more than ever, we rely on your generous support to provide these opportunities to our Valley students. And in these times when few internship opportunities are available, and even fewer are paid, the fact that we are able to continue to offer the Maddy Institute Legislative Intern Scholarship program is that much more important.

As we’ve done in the past, we wanted to provide you with a small sample of what our past and current Maddy interns are doing to make our region, state and nation a better place. As you read about their accomplishments, you should take pride in knowing that your support has given them the opportunity to acquire the skills necessary to make a positive impact.

Thank you for “paying it forward” by helping create the next generation of Valley political, civic and business leaders.

With Appreciation,

Mark Keppler
Kenneth L. Maddy Professor of Public Affairs



Where Are They Now?

Colleen Busby

Law student at USC Gould School of Law

Colleen interned in the Visalia office of Congressman Devin Nunes in the Summer of 2018.



“As a Central Valley native, my internship with the Maddy Institute gave me a chance to see how rewarding a career in public service can be, especially when you are helping the people back home! After law school, I hope to return to the Central Valley and work as a District Attorney. I know that the connections I have made and the skills I have learned through my internship will be invaluable in my future career.”

After the internship Colleen majored in Political Science and graduated from California State University, Fresno in Spring 2020. She was accepted to USC’s Law School on a scholarship and will begin her legal studies this Fall. Upon graduation, Colleen plans to practice law in the Central Valley.



Mike Conway

Attorney at Sagaser, Watkins & Wieland

Mike interned in the Hanford office of Cong. David Valadao in the summer of 2013. He graduated in 2015 with a bachelor’s in Political Science from California State University, Fresno.

“My Maddy experience taught me about politics, but more importantly, about people.

As a nineteen year-old, I had the opportunity to meet with some of the most influential members of the Central Valley and the opportunity to learn from some amazing individuals.”

Mike attended law school at University of San Diego, where he received the Dean's Honors Academic Scholarship and graduated magna cum laude and Order of the Coif, having ranked in the top ten percent of his graduating class.

Maddy Associates

President’s Circle



Governor’s Circle



E. & J. Gallo Winery



INN & RESTAURANT

Senator’s Circle



Navdeep Gill

Prospective law student

Navdeep interned in the in the Fresno office of U.S. Senator Kamala Harris in Spring 2019.



“I spent nearly a year as an intern in Senator Harris’ Fresno District Office and my time in that office helped to solidify my desire to become an advocate for others. As an intern, I was a direct link between constituents and the Senator’s office. To know that with one phone call I could’ve eased someone’s troubles made me realize that part of my purpose includes helping others; making life a bit easier to travel for others. I didn’t always have an advocate; someone to guide me through my life’s pains and trials. I spent most of my life feeling like I had no advocate, and I believe that I can be the advocate for others that I wished I had. I plan to become an attorney with a focus in public interest law and corporate law. I plan to come back to the Central Valley to practice law and to advocate for underserved, marginalized communities.”

Navdeep was awarded the 2020 Dean’s Medal at the Craig School of Business where she graduated with a perfect 4.0 while earning a Bachelors in Economics. After taking a gap year, she plans on attending law school in the Fall of 2021.



Mariela Gomez

Field Representative for the Office of Assemblymember Rudy Salas.

Mariela interned in the Bakersfield office of Assemblymember Vince Fong in the fall of 2018. She graduated from California State University, Bakersfield with a Master’s in Public Administration in May 2020.

“I am grateful for having the opportunity to be a Maddy Legislative Intern. I was challenged to be open-minded about the concepts surrounding public policies as well as interactions with key decision makers. I truly learned the fundamentals of being a public servant.”

Mariela plans to pursue a doctorate degree. Her goal is to inspire other students from the Central Valley to pursue higher education and become champions of change for their community.

Senator’s Circle



Assembly member’s Circle

Mr. Henry Barkett

Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Gazarian

Mr. & Mrs. James and Coke
Hallowell

Kern County Taxpayers
Association

The Mr. & Mrs. Lyles Fund

Mr. Phillip Maroot



Spring 2020

Gina Gutierrez

Prospective law student and U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development, Fresno Advisory Boardmember

Gina served as an intern in Fall 2017 for Fresno office of Congressman Jim Costa.

"Through the legislative intern program I was able to observe how a member of Congress serves their constituents. This internship truly inspired me! I gained perspective on how the government works, and sometimes doesn't. I not only learned important skills, I gained valuable insight into myself and personal goals while working for Congressman Jim Costa. I am truly honored to have been chosen as a legislative intern through the Maddy Institute."



Assembly member's Circle



Upon graduating with a degree in Political Science from California State University, Fresno Gina plans to attend law school. Her ultimate goal is to serve as a legal advocate for marginalized communities and cultural groups.

Thank you to our



Ana Melendez

Legislative Director for Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula

Ana interned in Assemblymember Sarah Reyes's office in Fresno during the spring of 2003.

"My Maddy internship experience cemented my belief that I wanted to pursue a life in public service. It showed me how much public service can affect the lives of people every day and that as policy is crafted, that we need to be determined in keeping in mind the realities that our families, businesses, and communities face every day."

Ana graduated from California State University, Fresno with a Bachelors in Political Science.



Jacob Villagomez

District Director for State Senator Melissa Hurtado

Jacob Villagomez served as an intern for Assemblymember Henry Perea during the spring and summer of 2015. He is a proud Sanger-native and is passionate about family, strong coffee and, of course, all things related to the Central Valley.

“The Maddy Institute provided me with a foundation and path towards government/public relations that is built on nonpartisanship and service, two components that are extremely important in engaging the public.”

After his Maddy Internship, Jacob was hired by the Office of Assemblyman Perea while working on his Bachelor’s in Political Science from California State University, Fresno. Upon graduation in 2016 he served the Fresno County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) as an economic development and government relations professional.



**Introducing our
Bob Beverly Sacramento Legislative Intern Scholars
Summer of 2020**



Natalie Griswold - *Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, Sacramento office* – Natalie is entering her final year at California State University, Fresno, pursuing a degree in Political Science, with a minor in History.

Natalie is a President’s Scholar in the Smittcamp Family Honors College, and serves as Treasurer for the Council of President’s Scholars. In the Summer 2019, she was *Bob Beverly Intern Scholar* in Gov. Gavin Newsom’s Capitol Office and in Fall 2018 she served as a Leon E. Panetta Congressional Intern in the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. Natalie currently serves as Advocacy Coordinator with ASI Bulldog Lobby Corps at Fresno State. She has also worked as a student assistant at the Maddy Institute since her freshman year.

After graduating, Natalie plans to continue working in public service and obtain a graduate degree in public policy or political science. She will continue as a proud representative of the Maddy Institute as a *Bob Beverly Scholar* for a second year in Gov. Newsom’s office in Sacramento since they asked her back for a second year. She is very thankful for the opportunity to continue serving the public.





Eduardo Antonio Uribe Albarran - *Governor’s Office of Planning and Research* – Eduardo is currently a junior at California State University, Bakersfield majoring in Political Science, with a concentration in International Relations. He served a Maddy Internship in the Spring of 2020 in the Bakersfield’s office of Congressman TJ Cox.

Eduardo was born in Santa Maria. Prior to attending CSU Bakersfield, he attended Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, CA and Roosevelt University in Chicago.

During his time at Hancock College, Eduardo participated in multiple federally-funded programs including, College Achievement Now and EOPS. Both programs help students develop community outreach and scholarship skills. He was also a student athlete competing on the college’s track and

field team.

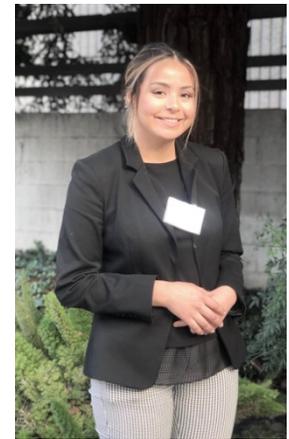
Eduardo’s prior intern experience includes an internship with the NIH Bridges to Baccalaureate Program where he engaged in medical research at Calif. Polytechnic State Univ. in San Luis Obispo.

After obtaining his degree from CSUB, he plans to continue to work with a non-profit organization that focuses on international relations and, eventually, return to Chicago to obtain a graduate degree.

San Joaquin Valley Maddy Legislative Interns Spring-Summer 2020

Esther Bautista – *Office of Fresno Councilmember Nelson Esparza* – is a senior at California State University, Fresno majoring in Political Science with a minor in Philosophy. Growing up in Stockton, Esther did not know much about the American political system. She attributes her first political science class at Fresno State as opening her eyes to the connection between her background and policy-making.

After her experience interning in Washington, D.C. as a Panetta Congressional Intern and her Maddy Internship, Esther has determined to pursue a career in public service.





Anthony Camacho – *Office of Congressman Jim Costa, Fresno office* – Anthony Camacho is a junior at California State University, Fresno pursuing a degree in Agricultural Business, with a minor in Political Science and certificate in Legal Studies. Anthony is from Greenfield, a small but diverse agricultural community in Salinas Valley.

Anthony currently serves as the Interfraternity Council President and Lobby Corps Executive Assistant. He is a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, he served as the VNR – Activities and currently serves as the Social Media Chair and VNR – Finance. This past summer, he studied abroad and completed an internship in the Açores, Portugal where he gained experience in international agribusiness and industrial agriculture.

Anthony’s goal is to obtain a Master’s degree in Public Policy and work for a member of Congress or the United States Dept. of Agriculture in Washington D.C. In the future, Anthony hopes to run for public office to better serve his community.

Vanessa Chicaiza – *Office of Assemblymember Rudy Salas, Bakersfield office* – is projected to graduate in May 2020 from California State University, Bakersfield with a Bachelor’s in Public Policy and Administration. Raised by a strong, intelligent, and accomplished single mother who taught her the value of an education, Vanessa was a member of the PPA 4+1 Program at CSUB which allows candidates to earn a Masters of Public Administration in one year.

Vanessa is originally from Southern California. Since coming to the Central Valley she has developed a deep appreciation for our region and found fulfillment by immersing herself in the Bakersfield community. Vanessa is involved in multiple clubs and organizations at CSUB, including Associated Students Inc. (Student Government), where she serves as the Director of Transfer Students. In the Fall 2019, Vanessa established the ‘Rowdy’s Little Library Project’ – which involves building libraries for the Children’s Center and the Student Union – in an effort to enhance the CSUB community.

Upon graduation, Vanessa plans to pursue her passion for community engagement through a career in government. Vanessa extends her gratitude and appreciation to all of the individuals who have supported her along her journey.





Guadalupe Cruz – *Office of Assemblymember Devon Mathis, Visalia office* – Guadalupe Cruz is a third-year student at California State University, Fresno pursuing a double major in Political Science and Sociology. During her time at Fresno State, Guadalupe has primarily focused her studies on American politics. In addition, she is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society. Guadalupe will be the first in her family to graduate college.

Upon graduation, she plans on pursuing her master’s degree in Public Policy and plans on pursuing a career in local government somewhere in the San Joaquin Valley.

Madison Aldonsa Firstman – *Office of Fresno Councilmember Luis Chavez* – Madison is a second year student in the Smittcamp Family Honors College at California State University, Fresno majoring in Business Administration, with an option in Finance.



Madison has been active outside the classroom as well. She has spent her summers in Mexico volunteering for *Mujeres Trabajando*, an organization dedicated to empowering women. She has also served as the Community Service Chair for Phi Alpha Delta (PAD), a professional law fraternity. She is currently serving as treasurer for Fresno State Mock Trial Team.

Upon graduation, Madison plans to attend law school. She is excited to be an Maddy Intern and hopes to use this opportunity to continue her work as an advocate for those in need.



Payton Fong – *Office of Assemblymember Adam Gray, Merced Office* – Payton is a senior at the Univ. of Calif., Merced pursuing a degree in Political Science.

Payton currently serves as Chair of Attorney Relations at the UC Merced Law Clinic, as well as Editor in Chief of the UC Merced Law Bulletin. Through these experiences, Payton has become passionate about learning how the law and government can be used to make a difference in our community. He hopes that his Legislative Internship with the Maddy Institute will provide him with the knowledge and experience of how public service can best help and empower people in the community.



Jessica García – *Office of U.S. Congressman Josh Harder, Modesto office* – Jessica is a third-year student at California State University, Stanislaus, pursuing a degree in Political Science. She is a member of the Stanislaus State Pre-Law Society and is the co-founder and President of the Undocumented Students Organization. She is also an active volunteer with Mi Familia Vota.



Jessica is a first-generation college student and is committed to giving back to her community. Upon graduation in May 2021, she plans to attend law school and, upon graduation, plans a career in government.



Antonio Gutierrez – *Office of Congressman TJ Cox, Selma office and Sacramento Office of State Senator Anna Caballero* – Antonio is a first generation college student, transfer to Fresno State from the College of the Sequoias. He is a junior studying economics, with a certificate in finance. He is a member of the Business Scholars Program.

After college, he is interested in working for the state or local government as an analyst. He is grateful for the opportunity to have experiences at both the state and federal levels and believes it will better prepare him to make a positive contribution upon graduation.

Sabrina Magallanes – *Office of Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula* – Sabrina proudly attends California State University, Fresno where she is currently a third-year student pursuing a degree in Political Science.



Sabrina is a member of the National Political Science Honor Society.

As a native of the Central Valley, her life has revolved around the agricultural prosperity of the Valley. Her family grows pistachios and almonds.

Sabrina is particularly interested in constitutional law and plans to attend law school after graduation.





Emily Neill – *Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein, Fresno office* – Emily is currently finishing her degree at California State University, Fresno with a double major in Economics and Political Science.

Emily is a member of the Political Science Honors Fraternity Pi Sigma Alpha and served as the Secretary of that organization in Fall 2019. She is also a member of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority, where she served as Chief Financial Officer and Vice President.

Emily has previously interned at finance firm Sensiba San Filippo and is a returned as a Maddy Intern in the office of Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula in Fall 2019.

Upon graduation, Emily plans to pursue a graduate degree in international relations and hopes to work for the U.S. Dept. of Defense or the FBI on international security issues.

Brian Phelps – *Office of Assemblymember Jim Patterson, Fresno office* – Brian is a junior at California State University, Fresno pursuing a degree in Agriculture Education, with a minor in Political Science.

Born in Lemoore, Brian has always had a keen interest in agriculture. During high school, he was actively involved in the Young Assemblymember Program through Assemblymember Rudy Salas’ office and Boys State which piqued his interest in political science. Currently, Brian is the President of the Portuguese Studies Organization Club and a member of the JCAST FFA Field Day Committee at Fresno State.

Brian will become the first member in his family to graduate from college and plans a career as an Agriculture Educator. He also hopes to eventually hold political office in local government, and perhaps running for the State Assembly in the future. Brian is excited about the opportunities that being a Maddy Institute Legislative Intern has to offer.



Fabiola Rodriguez – *Office of State Senator Anna Caballero, Merced office* – Fabiola is a senior at California State University, Stanislaus pursuing a degree in Sociology, with focus on criminology and social deviance.

While raised in Watsonville, she now resides in Los Banos so she considers the Valley home. Fabiola has served as a mediator for Spanish-language speakers seeking government assistance, volunteered with her church to support its work with the needy, and completed the Citizens Police Academy at the Stanislaus University Police Department. Fabiola regularly attends community events to raise awareness among community members about social issues.

Upon graduation, Fabiola plans a career in government. Fabiola is particularly interested in becoming involved in rehabilitating programs directed at improving the lives of disadvantaged youth.



Charles Udeze – *Office of Congressman Jim Costa, Merced office* – Charles is a senior at the University of California, Merced pursuing a degree in Public Health, with a double minor in Economics and Community Research & Service.



Charles emigrated from Nigeria and was raised in the Central Valley. Motivated to improve health outcomes through policy development, he currently works at UC Merced’s Health Promotion Department and serves on the board of the UC Student Health Insurance Plan. He has also completed an internship at the Central California Alliance for Health, a non-profit Medicare insurance agency in Merced County. An avid trombone and tuba player, he also plays in UC Merced’s Bobcat Band.

Upon graduation, Charles plans to obtain a medical degree and MPH in Health Policy and Management and then work as a physician and health policy advisor.



Elizabeth Victoria Valdez – *Office of Fresno Council President Miguel Arias* – Elizabeth is a junior at California State University, Fresno majoring in Political Science, with a minor in Philosophy.

Elizabeth is a transfer student from the College of the Sequoias in Visalia where she competed on the school’s softball team. She has found that her experience as a student-athlete has helped her perform at a high level in the competitive academic environment.

Upon graduation, Elizabeth plans to attend law school, return the Central Valley and become involved in local politics. Her goal is to address social injustices that exist in her community.

Kia Kelly Vang – *Office of State Senator Melissa Hurtado, Fresno Office* – Kia is a senior at California State University, Fresno and is pursuing a degree in political science, with a minor in the media, communications and journalism department. Her projected graduation date is May 2020.



She serves as president of the Gamma Lambda chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi, and she is a writer for the Asian Pacific Review on campus.

After graduation, Kia plans to pursue a graduate degree and plans a career in public service in government.





John Winkler – *Office of State Senator Melissa Hurtado, Bakersfield office*
– John is a junior at California State University, Bakersfield pursuing a degree in Political Science.

John’s initial interest in politics began in high school where he was a four-year member of the Frontier High School debate team. He obtained his Associates degree in Political Science, Communication Studies, and Liberal Arts from Bakersfield College.

John’s goal is to become an attorney. To that end, John continues to involve himself in the CSUB and Bakersfield community as a member of the CSUB Model United Nations team, Secretary of the CSUB Political Science Club, and a participant in the second cohort of the Norman L. Epstein Court Mentorship Program. He has also been a Legal Intern with State Compensation Insurance Fund. After graduating from law school, John’s goal is to become a staff attorney for a congressional committee.

If you are interested in becoming a Maddy Associate please contact Mark Keppler at mkeppler@csufresno.edu

www.maddyinstitute.org

