



The Maddy Institute
California State University, Fresno

NEWSLETTER FALL 2018

A Note From the Director...

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 really works.

Moreover, our legislative interns learn “the Maddy Way” – developing the increasing rare and valued ability to find bipartisan, common sense solutions to the challenges we face as a Nation, State, and Valley.

And because of your generous on-going support, our legislative scholar interns receive a scholarship to help defray their costs. The Sacramento Bee has noted that we are one of the few paid legislative intern programs at the State Capitol. Of course, this could not happen without the generous, on-going support, of people like you who care about restoring civility in politics.



In the following pages, we again 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?



Alexandra Gallo *Executive Fellow - Capitol Fellows Program*

Alexandra interned in Congressman Jim Costa’s Fresno District Office in the Spring of 2016. In the summer of 2017 she interned in his Washington, D.C. office. At graduation she earned the President’s Medal from CSU Fresno President Joseph Castro at the 2017 Commencement. She then joined the Office of State Senator Bob Wieckowski as a Field Representative.

“Through the Maddy Institute, I was able to gain strong mentorships that proved to be beneficial throughout the years. The internship opened my eyes to the importance of constituency service and helping disadvantaged communities in the Valley and throughout California. The Maddy Institute was pivotal in providing me with the experience and skills necessary for a career in state and federal government. Because of the scholarship component, I was able to experience working in Washington DC- which otherwise would not have been feasible for me. This experience allowed me to learn more about myself, diverse policy issues, and the type of life and career I want to have.”

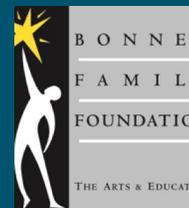
Recently, she was selected as an Executive Fellow through the Capitol Fellows program in Sacramento and placed at the Strategic Growth Council within the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research. The SGC works closely with Fresno due to the Transformative Climate Communities grant program – where the SGC provided Fresno with \$70million for climate initiatives.

Maddy Associates

President’s Circle



Senator’s Circle





Steven Graham
MPA Candidate at CSU Stanislaus

Steven Graham was a Maddy Legislative Intern in the Clovis office of Assemblymember Mike Briggs in the Spring of 2001. After completing his Maddy Internship, Steven's health deteriorated and he was blessed to receive a double lung-transplant in 2002. Subsequently, he earned his Juris Doctorate at San Joaquin College of Law, where he was honored to serve as the Student Bar Association President from 2007 – 2009.

Through his experiences, he has learned that "...empathy costs nothing and aids in both tumultuous political times, as well as calm ones."

After Law School, Steven then moved to the Bay Area where he spent roughly the last decade teaching history for the San Jose Evergreen Community College District. After being voted Distinguished Adjunct Faculty of the Year a second time in 2018, Mr. Graham took a break from teaching and is currently pursuing a Master's in Public Administration at California State University Stanislaus. Finally, in his spare time Mr. Graham is a Donate Life Ambassador who proudly advocates for organ donation.



Michael Lomio
Director of Government Relations for Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Michael Lomio was a Maddy Legislative Intern in the Merced office of U.S. Representative Jim Costa in the Summer of 2014. He earned two Bachelor of Arts degrees (Economics and Political Science) from the

University of California, Merced. During college, Michael held several internships, in addition to being a Maddy Intern. He interned for the Students First Center at UC Merced, and went on to support the California High-Speed Rail Authority's

Senator's Circle



Assemblymember's Circle

Mr. Henry Barkett

James Costa Farms

Mr. & Mrs. James and Coke
 Hallowell

Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Gazarian

Mr. Don Jackson

Kern County Tax Payers
 Assoc.

The Mr. & Mrs. Lyles Fund

Ms. Norma Foster Maddy

Mr. Phillip Maroot

Mr. Marvin Meyers

Ms. Jo-Ann Slinkard

Communications Team. His final internship was at the White House during President Barack Obama’s Administration.

“Through the Maddy Institute I learned that when I work with community stakeholders, elected officials, and disadvantaged communities to benefit the public, I am most proud of my work. It was as a Maddy Intern where I came to understand the value of listening to others; no matter their background nor their beliefs. To this day, I feel a great nostalgia towards my work in the Congressman’s office serving the Central Valley. Even now in Silicon Valley, I often advocate for a California that will one day find itself with less inequality, more prosperity, and a greater quality of life.”

After college, Michael began working at the Silicon Valley Leadership Group as the organization’s Government Relations Associate. By December of 2016, he was promoted to Senior Associate and has led the government relations team as its Director since July of 2017. At the Leadership Group, Michael oversees and advises on all government relations efforts at the local, state, and federal levels of government and in his spare time, Michael serves as a Board Member of the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee, which is a four-county lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender political action committee and as a Commissioner on the Santa Clara Citizens’ Advisory Commission where he supports the expansion of voting rights throughout the County.



Athena Skapiniakis
*Field Representative for
Assemblymember Rudy Salas*

Athena Skapiniakis was a Maddy Legislative Intern in the Bakersfield office of Assemblymember Rudy Salas in the Spring of 2017. She graduated in 2015 with a bachelor’s degree in Communications at CSU Bakersfield where she was Editor-in-chief, Features Editor and Reporter of *The Runner* and also served as a Public Affairs and Communications Specialist for the President’s Monthly Update and CSUB Magazine.

“The Maddy Institute internship allowed me to gain invaluable experience in policy and legislative affairs in a state-level office. After my internship, I was later offered a position as a field representative in the same office. Beginning as an intern allowed me to transition smoothly as new full-time staff. Both

Assemblymember’s Circle



*Thank you to our
Maddy Associates*

**If you want to become a
Maddy Associate
please email:
mkeppler@csufresno.edu**

experiences have helped immensely in developing my professional growth and journey in government.”

In 2015, she pursued a MPA at CSU Bakersfield while also serving as a Police Department Intern at Bakersfield Police Department. After completing her MPA, she joined the office of Assemblymember Rudy Salas full time.

Introducing our San Joaquin Valley Maddy Legislative Interns for Fall 2018



Rebeca Delgado - *Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein* - is a Political Science and Chicano Studies double major at CSU Fresno. She was born in Michoacán, Mexico and immigrated to the United States as a young girl. Rebeca has lived in the Central Valley the majority of her life and calls Kerman, California home.

Rebeca is also part of the College of Social Science Honors Program at Fresno State. After graduation, Rebeca plans to enroll in the Social Science Credential Program at Fresno State and hopes to teach United States Government in a Valley school district to inspire and engage the next generation of young leaders.

Mariela Gomez – *Office of Assemblymember Vince Fong* - is currently working towards a MPA at California State University (CSU), Bakersfield. She is projected to graduate in Spring of 2020.

As a first-generation college student and daughter of migrant field workers, she truly values the education and opportunities she has been able to take advantage of while pursuing her degree. Prior to graduate school, she served as the President of Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) at CSU Bakersfield and served as the official representative of the student body regarding campus and system-wide concerns while advocating in Sacramento, New York, and Washington D.C.

Mariela’s ultimate goal is to advocating for students to help create policies that make higher education accessible, affordable, and equitable.





Mindy Manafe – *Office of Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula* – is currently pursuing a degree in Political Science at California State University, Fresno where she intends to focus on international relations because of her interest in global issues. She also has an interest in political issues related to discrimination against minorities, as well as religious freedom.

Mindy’s goal is to do policy work as it relates to international affairs. As a result, after graduation she plans to pursue a graduate degree in international affairs, with a specific focus in global commerce and finance.

Sarah Martinez - *Office of Senator Andy Vidak and Office of U.S. Congressman Jim Costa* - is a Master of Social Work candidate at California State University, Fresno and a Maddy Institute Legislative Intern.

She has an expected graduation date of Spring 2020 and hopes to receive her license to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker after graduation. She is passionate about public policy and social work, especially in Fresno and the Central Valley.



Mariela Mendez - *Office of U.S. Congressman Jim Costa* - is a Central Valley native residing in Madera County. She is a senior at California State University, Fresno. Mariela’s focus of study has been Philosophy, with an emphasis in Law and a minor in Peace and Conflict Studies. Upon graduation, Mariela plans to enroll in law school beginning in the Fall 2019. Her ultimate goal is to become an attorney working on public policy issues that impact the Valley and California.

Jaskaran (Jassi) Singh - *Office of Fresno City Councilmember Esmeralda Soria* - is currently working towards a Bachelors in Political Science at California State University, Fresno. He is projected to graduate in May 2020.

As an undergraduate student born and raised here in the San Joaquin Valley, Jassi remains deeply attached to the problems which face our Valley in the present day. As a son of first generation Sikh-Americans, Jassi takes pride in the diversity of the Valley, and the problems which all our communities face regardless of their culture.

Jassi will be the first member of his family to graduate from college. Upon graduation, he wants to pursue a legal education, specializing in human rights.



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

www.maddyinstitute.com