

# Joseph & Mary Ellen Yenerall Politics & Public Service Scholarship

## 2022 & 2023 Recipients

### Inside Washington 2022 Scholars



#### Wyatt Baker

**Major:** History, Political Science

**Hometown:** Strattanville, PA

**Year, Home Campus:** Senior, Pennsylvania Western University - Clarion

"I would just like to thank Dr. Y's family for providing me with such an exceptional opportunity. My time with The Washington Center was invaluable, and it allowed me to gain new insights that have directed me in the right direction regarding my educational journey."



#### James Ross

**Major:** Political Science

**Hometown:** Erie, PA

**Year, Home Campus:** Senior, Pennsylvania Western University – Clarion

"My time in Washington D.C. with The Washington Center provided me with insights into how our government works on a day-to-day basis and interacts with the plethora of advocates, organizations, and foreign nations who all want the ear of policy makers. On a more personal note, the Joseph and Mary Ellen Yenerall Politics & Public Service Scholarship allowed me the opportunity to go to our nation's capital and experience politics in praxis. This experience is what made me decide to commit myself fully to pursuing a degree and career in the field."



#### Cassondralee Schwalm

**Major:** Communications

**Hometown:** Knox, PA

**Year, Home Campus:** Senior, Pennsylvania Western University – Clarion

"The Washington Center has left an indelible mark on my professional journey, allowing me to propel my career to new heights. As I now serve in the government sector, I actively apply the knowledge acquired through their exceptional programs. However, it is important to acknowledge that this transformative experience would not have been possible without the financial support provided by the Joseph and Mary Ellen Yenerall Politics and Public Service Scholarship, established by the amazing Dr. Kevan Yenerall. Being an individual who aged out of the foster care system, I lacked the necessary financial means to participate in extensive internship programs. Yet, Dr. Yenerall's dedication ensures that every student, regardless of their financial circumstances, can seize the opportunity to become educated public servants. His commitment to empowering students like myself is truly commendable, as it enables us to pursue our aspirations and contribute meaningfully to society."

## Academic Internship Program Summer 2023 Scholars



### Eleanor Bloom

**Major:** Psychology

**Hometown:** Clarion, PA

**Year, Home Campus:** Sophomore, Pennsylvania Western University - Clarion

**Internship:** American Association for Marriage and Family Therapist

“My experiences at The Washington Center are ones I will never forget, and they will prove to be beneficial to my long-term professional goals. As someone with an intense interest in child welfare advocacy, it was essential for me to gain hands-on guidance from respected organizations and leaders within the mental health field. By connecting and securing a role as a Government and Corporate Affairs intern at the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy through TWC, I am doing just that. Through reviewing and summarizing legislation, collaborating with lobbyists, and creating advocacy materials, I have been able to build a more well-rounded knowledge of the background crew in the policy-making process. I’ve come to better understand the public entities that regulate and oversee the individuals who both provide as well as those who receive behavioral health services. More particular to my desired field (and a direct result of learning the basics to networking), I have had the opportunity to learn from and foster connections with admirable child welfare advocates. Through this, I’ve been able to narrow my expected education path into one that will effectively lay the groundwork necessary to achieve my profound professional goals.

This adventure to DC has further allowed me to greatly expand my knowledge of various aspects of government, which is vital as someone who aims to engage in advocacy work at the state and federal levels. I’ve gained a better grasp of Medicare and the alien language that’s used within its functioning. I am also learning more about American history, as well as current controversies and focuses, that I likely wouldn’t have in the average classroom setting. In particular, I’ve most recently come to obtain incredible insights into the “unwinding” of Medicaid and CHIP’s continuous enrollment provisions. Also, I am now familiar with the seasonal schedule adhered to by the legislative bodies. While I have indubitably learned an ample amount about our national regime, I’ve unexpectedly come to understand even more about those that operate the states. As I am conducting a research project on the states’ child protection laws—particularly those that relate to their screening and investigation policies/procedures—I am even able to gain an in-depth comprehension of the specific legislation that I wish to eventually impact.

Additionally, I’ve had the ability to obtain a variety of resources relevant to this topic I may have not had access to otherwise. As a disabled full-time independent student who does not have the support of a family to rely on in any sense, I am undeniably positive that without the various scholarships made available to almost fully fund this journey, I would not be here at all. I have an unending well of gratitude for Dr. Yenerall given his passion and dedication to making this opportunity not only possible, but also as seamless and beneficial as he could. His decisions to offer and make available the Joseph and Mary Ellen Yenerall Politics & Public Service Scholarship are just a few of the many extraordinary testimonies to his possession of these characteristics.



### Katelyn Hetrick

**Major:** Political Science

**Hometown:** Frenchville, PA

**Year, Home Campus:** Senior, Pennsylvania Western University - Clarion

**Internship:** Foundation on Economic Trends

“I am very grateful for Dr. Yenerall’s generosity in funding this scholarship. It is a great help to me financially, and has granted me this incredible opportunity to intern in Washington D.C.”