

THE INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH IN POLICY

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

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ASHER COHEN,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Members of the Institute for Youth in Policy,

As I write to you at the end of my first year as the Institute's CEO, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the remarkable progress we have made in our collective mission. I could have never envisioned how far this organization has come. United by a passion for educating, engaging, and empowering the next generation of civic change-makers, our team has worked to enhance youth civic engagement, tackle political polarization, and teach individuals how to disagree better.

We live in a rapidly changing world, one in which it's hard to know what developments are coming and whether the resources we have today will meet the needs of tomorrow. And that is precisely why we have a strong mandate as an organization: to meet the challenges of a changing world and make it better. This annual report is a testament to the work we are doing to meet this mission through our three core pillars (Education, Engagement, and Empowerment).

This past year, we reached the milestone of having over 1800 articles published, 1500 graduated fellows, 200 operational staff, and 15 fellowship cohorts. Our Public Policy Fellowship is the cornerstone of what we do. The young leaders in this program engage in civil discourse, attend workshops on personal, local, and global policy issues, and complete critical capstone projects addressing issues they see in the world. The fellowship is not only a cornerstone for our organization but also for our fellows, as many continue in other roles at YIP or take what they learn to new initiatives, passions, and career paths.

Our policy media efforts have also expanded, with over 50 briefs and 40 opinion pieces published this year alone. Interest in our fellowship doubled this year, with over 1300 applicants for each cohort. We met these demands through consistent curriculum edits to reflect contemporary realities and prepare the next generation of leaders to tackle the biggest issues facing our society.

I am excited to share several new initiatives you will read about within these pages, such as our project incubation program, Global Rising Innovators in Policy course, AI Policy Center, virtual conference, PIVOT Center, career center, vertical news content, and learning hubs program.

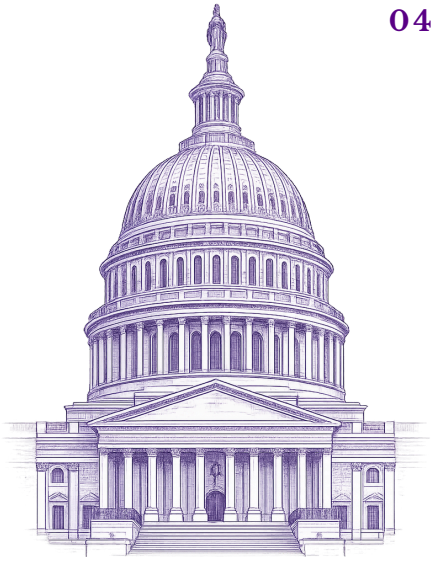
I want to wholeheartedly thank our fellows, alumni, staff, partners, supporters, and friends. Your unwavering dedication has helped sustain and grow our organization, making our work deeply impactful and meaningful. I hope you will take time to learn more about our organization and see how we are nurturing a generation of young leaders who will tackle the complex challenges of our time. We are incredibly grateful to have you on our side for this journey.

With gratitude and excitement for the future,

Asher Cohen

Asher Cohen
Chief Executive Officer

YEAR AT A GLANCE



As we reflect on the past year at YIP, we are proud to highlight key accomplishments that demonstrate our commitment to fostering youth leadership and civic engagement opportunities.

OPERATIONAL GROWTH

To date, we have engaged over 1500 fellows, 1300 staff members, 5,000 students through our education curriculum, and received over 15,000 student applications for our programs. The expansion in the numbers of students we have reached emphasizes the extent of our impact.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

YIP was invited to speak at the SXSW Education Conference and Festival. Our CEO Asher Cohen was also asked to join the Aspen Institute's Center for Rising Generation Civil Discourse convening, underscoring how the Institute is a leader in envisioning the future of youth political discourse.

PIVOT CENTER LAUNCH

Originally founded in January 2025, PIVOT rapidly expanded into an international youth-led initiative focused on civic engagement, multimedia storytelling, and accessible political education. Through its fellowship program, blog, digital outreach, and civic leadership academy, PIVOT reached more than 100,000 individuals across over 30 countries within its first year. Following its merger with the Institute for Youth in Policy, the PIVOT Center continued expanding its programming while integrating into YIP's broader institutional structure. A major focus over the past year was the expansion of PIVOT's multimedia initiatives, including the development of more than five ongoing series centered on interviews, commentary, and personalized storytelling connected to major policy issues and global events.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Many of our former fellows and students involved in policy brief writing have explored opportunities at YIP after introductory roles, using their skills in research, critical thinking, grassroots organizing, and writing to drive change in their communities.

ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

We have published education research in the Journal of Advanced Research in the Social Sciences, served in the Institute for Citizens and Scholars inaugural Carnegie Young Leaders fellowship for our education research work, and created 8 new civics workshops that will be featured at the California Association of Student Councils's new monthly webinars.

GROWING OUR REACH

Through the launch of our Project Incubation and Global Rising Innovators in Policy programs, we have expanded the kinds of communities the Institute reaches with its programming. Our Project Incubation program selects, supports, and mentors youth-led non-profits and initiatives working across the civics, lobbying, advocacy, writing, domestic violence, and gender rights spaces. Our Global Rising Innovators in Policy course provides an accessible fellowship program for students outside the United States looking to learn more about the US political system and build pitches to improve civic awareness.

BY THE NUMBERS

EFFECTIVE DISCOURSE

15
FELLOWSHIP COHORTS

60
AVG. COHORT SIZE

300
CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

EDUCATION

5,000
STUDENTS ENGAGED

8
CURRICULUM GUIDES

8
NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

+4
PUBLISHED RESEARCH

POLICY MEDIA & CIVIC GROWTH

157
POLICY BRIEFS PUBLISHED

442
OPINION ARTICLES

13M+
IMPRESSIONS

3
PROJECTS DEVELOPED

MISSION, VISION, & VALUES

How we are meeting the challenges of a changing world and making it better.

MISSION:

At YIP, we are driven by a mission to educate, engage, and empower the next generation of leaders with the tools, knowledge, and connections needed to forge meaningful cross-sector civic change. We are committed to bridging theoretical knowledge with tangible actions, ensuring that our community not only understands policy challenges but also actively engages in crafting and implementing effective solutions. We teach youth about effective policy engagement and civic leadership, create spaces for civil discourse, and provide the platform and resources for youth to influence public policy.

VISION:

Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond, YIP envisions a world where young leaders are at the forefront of policy innovation and civic engagement. On our quest to build America's largest network of young innovators, our vision stands at the intersection of creating more spaces for youth innovation, entrepreneurship, mentorship, and opportunity. And we have built tools to start working towards this vision through our project incubation program, YIP local learning hubs, and the creation of our first virtual conference.

VALUES

PRINCIPLED NEUTRALITY

The Institute refrains from commenting on political matters to protect free speech and ensure a space where students of all opinions can engage.

LIFELONG LEARNING

We promote a culture of ongoing education, encouraging our community to embrace continuous improvement and intellectual curiosity.

COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION

We foster an environment where collective creativity flourishes, integrating diverse ideas to develop novel solutions.

EFFICACY

We prioritize efficiency and outcome-oriented approaches, ensuring that our efforts lead to meaningful and measurable results.

INTEGRITY & TRANSPARENCY

We uphold the highest standards of honesty and clarity in our operations, building trust through openness, psychological safety, and ethical behavior.

EXECUTIVE TEAM



ASHER COHEN | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Asher Cohen is a student at Columbia University studying Financial Economics and minoring in History and Religion. He is driven by a passion for building, developing, and executing new systems and frameworks. At YIP, Asher serves as the Chief Executive Officer, overseeing the strategy, long-term vision, and day-to-day management of the organization. Outside of YIP, Asher has worked for Kent Street, a private equity firm in the industrials sector, served as a Private Equity Summer Analyst for Future Standard's Primaries team, founded a civic education organization, conducted research with a Harvard fellow, and worked for local politicians. At Columbia, Asher is on the Executive Board of three finance clubs, Global Equity Management, the TAMID Group, and LendingCore Partners. He is also the Chief of Programming for the Columbia Economic Review, a tour guide, and a member of the campus Chabad.



TAYLOR BELJON-REGEN | CHIEF PROGRAMS OFFICER

Taylor Beljon-Regen is a student at Harvard University studying Government with a focus in comparative politics. Originally from Los Angeles, she serves as YIP's Chief Programs Officer leading various programs across the Effective Discourse and Education Department. Taylor is interested in how young people develop attitudes towards democracy and how that impacts democratic resilience in the long run. She co-founded the national civics organization, Civic Leaders of America, to promote student civic engagement and education. Taylor has worked as a Research Intern with the Common Good Forum, as a District Office Intern with the California State Assembly, and as an ACLU of Southern California Youth Liberty Squad Fellow. At Harvard, she is involved with the Harvard Institute of Politics, Harvard Undergraduate Consulting Group, the Harvard Crimson's Editorial Board, and Harvard Model Congress.

EXECUTIVE TEAM



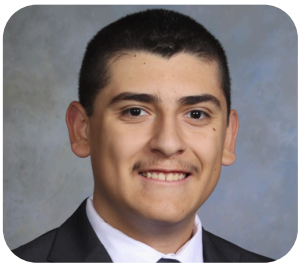
CALEB KURLANTZICK | CHIEF IMPACT OFFICER

Caleb Kurlantzick is a high school student and civic leader from Baltimore who is passionate about politics, economics, and global strategy. He has experience advising on youth-related policy, and co-founded PIVOT, which later merged into YIP. He is also the co-founder of Beyond Partisan, an organization focused on reforming election systems to increase turnout.



NOAH GORGAS | CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Noah Gorgas is a Columbia University student studying Economics-Political Science with a focus on electoral systems. He is experienced in legislative research, political communications, and event leadership through roles with the Massachusetts State House, student government, and youth organizations. At YIP, Noah serves as Chief Operating Officer, overseeing strategy and day-to-day management across the Human Resources, Policy Media, and Technology departments. Outside of YIP, he has interned at the Massachusetts State House, led a statewide campaign fellowship program, and held executive roles in several student organizations, while also working as a camp counselor each summer. At Columbia, Noah is a member of pre-professional organizations including Alpha Kappa Psi and the Pre-Law Society, volunteers as an event coordinator with Camp Kesem, and serves as a campus tour guide.



SEBASTIAN RIOS | CHIEF OF STAFF & CHIEF PEOPLE OFFICER

Sebastian Rios is the Chief of Staff and Chief People Officer at YIP. He is currently a dual-degree student at the Honors College studying Criminal Justice and Political Science with minors in Public Policy and Philosophy at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He has much experience working within legislative affairs and policy work as he served as Chair of the Nevada Youth Legislature and as youth representative on the Nevada Commission for Innovation and Excellence in Education. Sebastian served as one of the 2025 United States Senate Youth Delegates from the state of Nevada and plans to continue his exploration into the world of government. His ambition is to contribute to the fields of law and policy and he plans to attend law school after completing his undergraduate studies.

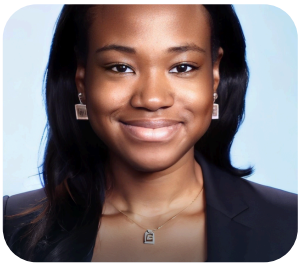
SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Meet the leaders pushing our mission forward by leading each of our departments and strategic focus areas.



JOSH WEINSTEIN | CO-SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, POLICY MEDIA

Josh will be studying politics and philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh this fall. He joined YIP in 2024 as a policy analyst, briefly worked as the Editor-in-Chief, and currently serves as a Senior Vice President for Policy Media.



WILLIANA SERVE | CO-SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, POLICY MEDIA

Williana is a current student at Boston University majoring in Political Science. Her academic interests revolve around economic and social policy. With aspirations to attend law school, she spends her free time engrossed in reading articles on current events and writing.



PATRICK PICKREN | HEAD OF FELLOWSHIP
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, EFFECTIVE DISCOURSE

Patrick is an incoming freshman at the University of Georgia from Atlanta, Georgia. He joined YIP in 2025 as an effective discourse fellow and currently serves as the Head of Fellowship and Senior Vice President of Effective Discourse. He previously was the VP of YIP's policy journal. He is currently studying political science on a pre-law track and is passionate about education policy.



SIYA MISHRA | CO-SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION

Siya is a student at Princeton University, studying Public & International Affairs. Her interests lie in education, technology, and business, and she is passionate about promoting gender equity.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP



AVA DIGIUSEPPE | CO-SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION

Ava DiGiuseppe is the Co-Senior Vice President of Education and a former Journal Editor at YIP. She studies Political Science and Classics at Columbia University and plans to pursue a JD/PhD. Her academic and policy interests center on constitutional law and political theory, including questions of free expression, civil rights, judicial independence, and the normative foundations of governance.



AKSHAN RANASINGHE | SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, CIVIC GROWTH

Akshan is a student at Marriotts Ridge High School in Maryland. A Fellow of the Fall 2024 Institute for Youth in Policy Cohort, he currently serves as the Senior Vice President of Civic Growth. Akshan intends to study economics and political science in college.



SANIYA YAMIN | SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR, PIVOT CENTER

Saniya Yamin is an incoming first-year student at Harvard University planning to study Government. She serves as the Senior Vice President of the PIVOT Center and was previously a Co-Founder of PIVOT. Saniya's work centers on education policy, civic engagement, and expanding access to opportunities for underserved students.



FAITH BRYANT | EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, MARKETING

Faith Bryant is an undergraduate student at the University of Texas at Austin, where she studies Plan II Honors and Public Relations. As an experienced advocate, student, actress, and aspiring lawyer, Faith strives to make a difference in her community through service and leadership.

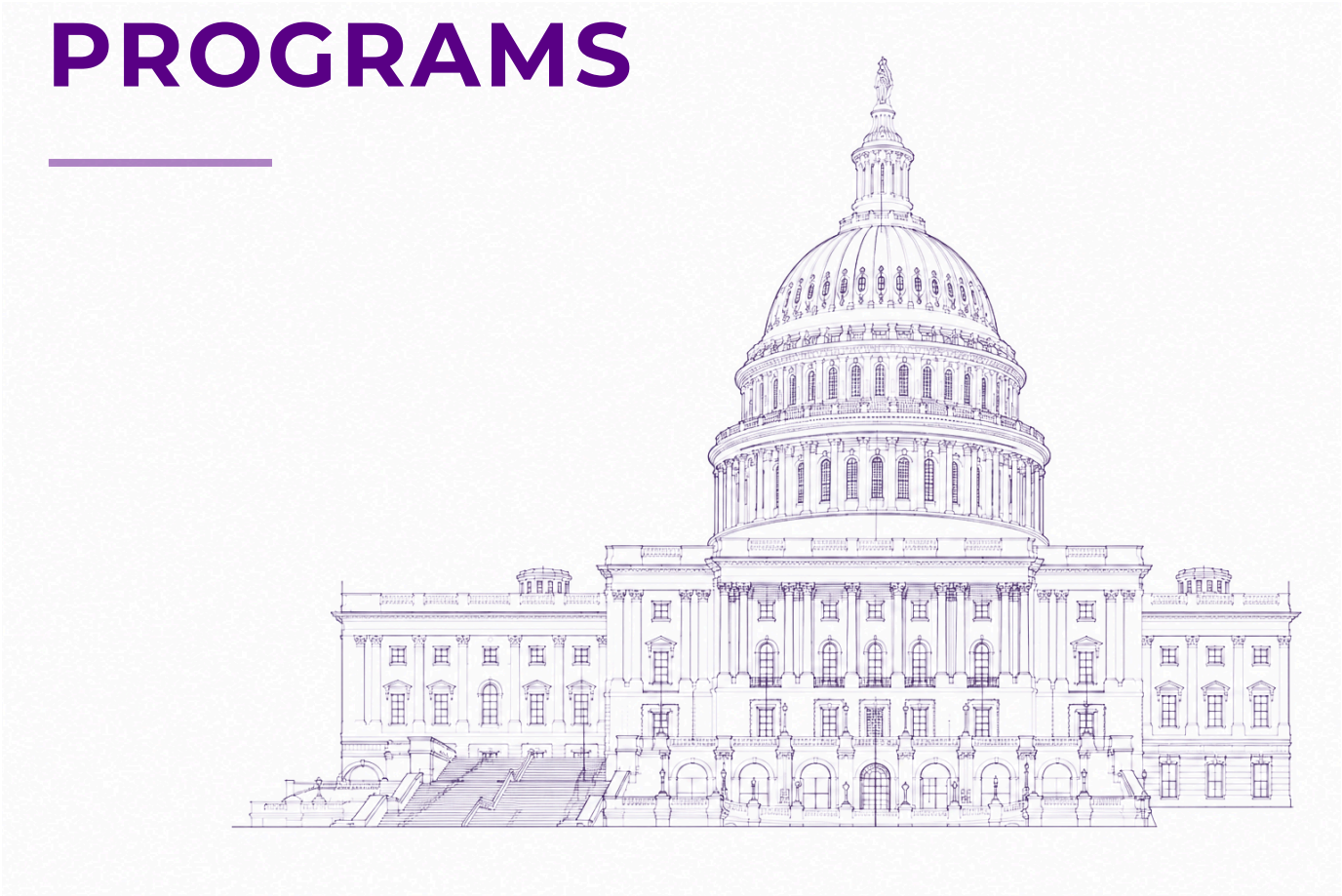


ROBBIE NGUYEN | EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, TECHNOLOGY

Robbie Nguyen is a student from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and serves as the Executive Vice President of Technology at the Institute for Youth in Policy. In his role, he oversees the functions of the Technology department and leads website development, internal systems, and enterprise security.

SPOTLIGHT:

NEW PROGRAMS



PROJECT INCUBATION



After multiple years of planning, YIP has launched a project incubation program, which is a Y-Combinator for youth-led non-profits, organizations, and initiatives addressing cross-sector problems. Through this initiative, our Center for Civic Growth selects, supports, and mentors students leading their own projects.

3 ORGANIZATIONS LAUNCHED

5+ ALUMNI MENTORS

1 INAUGURAL COHORT

Through our first cohort, we have welcomed three new organizations: Students4Civics, The HÉRA (Her Equity, Rights, and Advocacy) Project, and the Pale Blue Dot.

MEET OUR FIRST COHORT

STUDENTS 4 CIVICS

Founded on the belief that students deserve a seat at the table, Students4Civics creates pathways for youth to engage directly with policymakers, institutions, and community leaders, reaching 100+ legislators across the state of Georgia, and through the project incubation program, expanding to North Carolina, Kentucky, and Virginia.

THE HERA PROJECT

The HÉRA Project was founded to close opportunity gaps for young women by providing them with tools to understand their rights, advocate for reform, and step into leadership. Through Title IX education, resource guides, policy bills, and book drives, HÉRA is meeting the needs of young women around the globe.

PALE BLUE DOT

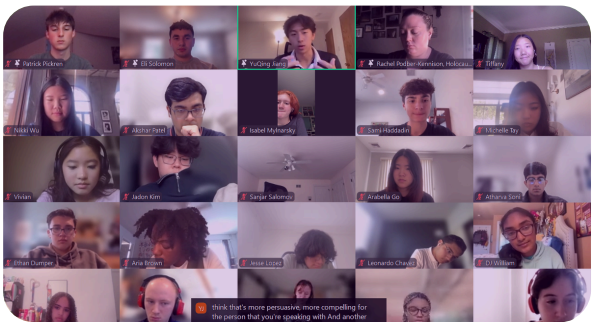
The Pale Blue Dot is an interdisciplinary journal amplifying international scholarship that challenges dominant Western narratives and globalizes the production of knowledge. Each piece in the journal appears in both the author's original language and English.

Each of these projects receive direct mentorship from YIP alumni working in influential fields. These alumni mentors have helped the Institute's first cohort of organizations build websites, find translators, and expand into new geographic areas. YIP looks forward to onboarding our second cohort of projects in the coming months.

CONFERENCE

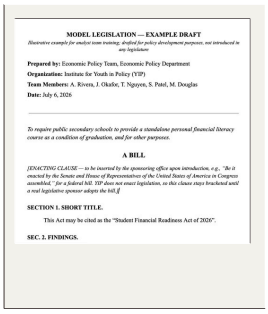


This May, the Effective Discourse team hosted YIP's first ever policy conference, bringing together young policy advocates, inquisitive minds, and policy experts to engage in political discourse. By hosting the conference via Zoom, we are proud to have posed zero financial burdens to participants, allowing for equitable access to policy space regardless of background. Partnering with the Washington Political International Institute, Stanford Deliberative Democracy Lab, and Holocaust Museum of Los Angeles, our incredibly qualified panelists spoke to persisting issues of hate speech, American election policy, media bias, and political polarization.



NEW POLICY BRIEF FORMATS

This year marked the beginning of new policy brief formats, including videos, multimedia, infographics, podcasts, and more. Our Policy Media department has begun putting our briefs into the hands of legislators through outreach to local and national political leaders.



MODEL LEGISLATION — EXAMPLE DRAFT

Illustrative example for analyst team training, drafted for policy development purposes, not introduced in any legislature.

Prepared by: Economic Policy Team, Economic Policy Department
Organization: Institute for Youth in Policy (YIP)
Team Members: A. Rivera, J. Okafor, T. Nguyen, S. Patel, M. Douglas
Date: July 6, 2026

To require public secondary schools to provide a standalone personal financial literacy course as a condition of graduation, and for other purposes.

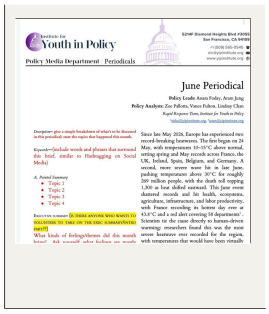
A BILL

ENACTING CLAUSE — to be inserted by the sponsoring office upon introduction, e.g., "Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled," for a federal bill. YIP does not enact legislation, so this clause stays bracketed until a real legislative sponsor adopts the bill.]

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Student Financial Readiness Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.



Institute for Youth in Policy

Policy Media Department · Periodicals

June Periodical

Policy Leads: Aeera Policy, Arav Jung
Policy Analysts: Zen Pallera, Vance Fisher, Lindsa Chin
Rapid Response Team, Institute for Youth in Policy

Since late May 2026, Europe has experienced two record-breaking heatwaves. The first began on 24 May, with temperatures 10–15 °C above normal, setting spring and May records across France, the UK, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland. Peak pushing temperatures above 30 °C for roughly 200 million people, with the death toll topping 1,300 as four shifted eastward. This June event shattered records and hit health, ecosystems, agriculture, infrastructure, and labor productivity, with France recording its hottest day ever at 43.4 °C and a red alert covering 16 departments'.

Scientists say the cause directly to human-driven warming: researchers found this was the most severe heatwave ever recorded for the region, with temperatures that would have been virtually

GLOBAL RISING INNOVATORS IN POLICY (GRIP)

GRIP is a virtual, six-week policy accelerator that places youth participants in structured cohorts to develop and pitch actionable policy solutions to real-world community issues, culminating in a Policy Tank competition where winning teams bring their proposals to life through YIP's resources and network. While accommodating international students across time zones has previously posed a challenge, this program has helped integrate the international community into our programming.

NEXT STEPS

As YIP has strengthened its existing programs, the Institute is always looking for innovative ways to fortify its impact. We are excited to announce the development of new initiatives that will provide different kinds of support for our students and meet the needs of new communities.

LEARNING HUBS

YIP is always looking for ways to bring our virtual, nationwide programming directly to communities and local areas. To that end, the PIVOT Center is launching Learning Hubs, which focus on building student-led community chapters. These groups will serve as YIP's physical home base and help give young people around the world access to the institution to do on-the-ground work in their communities with support and mentorship from YIP leadership. Each Hub will focus on an independent project connected to local issues while also contributing ideas, partnerships, outreach, and multimedia content back to YIP.

CAREER CENTER

On YIP's mission to educate, engage, and empower students, the Institute is always thinking about what students will do after they graduate from our fellowship or staff positions. Empowering students is often about giving them the tools to succeed in the future. We are building a career center, which will be a collection of resources and internship placement organizations for students to continue exploring public policy, innovation, government, and entrepreneurship. We are building a list of organizational partners who will host YIP students for internships and professional development. This initiative will be crucial for developing and maintaining the strength of our alumni network.

IN-PERSON PROGRAMMING

Within the civics space, there are many organizations that offer virtual programming and roles. While YIP is the most expansive both in terms of its student network and breadth of programming, there is even greater room for differentiation within the civics sphere by offering in-person programming. YIP aims to host an in-person Effective Discourse conference in the near future, which will be a summit-style event with guest speakers, panels, dialogue convenings, and social time. This event will be fully-funded by YIP through generous partners and our continued fundraising efforts. The Institute aims to cover all travel and hotel accommodations to make this event accessible regardless of background of socioeconomic status. If you would like to contribute to this initiative, please contact asher@yipinstitute.org.

YIP PARTNERS

We are extremely grateful for our partners that help us generate ideas, expand our impact, mentor students, and bring our initiatives to new communities.

POLICY MEDIA

For our brief writing teams, as well as our AI Policy Center, a dedicated pilot focused on producing human-centric, impact-oriented AI policy, partners are crucial to bringing youth's policy recommendations to new audiences. The Institute has secured partnerships with **The Habla Futures Initiative**, **Senator Tom Umberg**, **Assembly Member Valencia**, the **UCI Department of Education**, the **California Association of Bilingual Education**, and two student-led nonprofits, **Habla Arte** and **Lit League**. We have also formalized partnerships with **Civic Leaders of America**, the **Gault Center**, and the **Menstrual Equity Initiative**. We also hosted a joint essay contest with the **Young People's Alliance** centered around the idea of the American Dream.

EDUCATION

As we continue to pilot our 1000+ page education curriculum, design 8 condensed workshops, and put our curriculum into schools, we have worked with research institutions and Civics Coalitions to test and strengthen our resources. Our Need for Civics Education and Listening Initiative research projects have been published in academic journals, such as the Journal of Advanced Research in the Social Sciences. The education team has also collaborated with **iCivics** and the **Institute for Citizens and Scholars**.

EFFECTIVE DISCOURSE

Effective Discourse has partnered with **AliefVotes**, a civic education and voter engagement education organization in Alief, Texas, a suburb of Houston. Its Program Director, Tommy Wan, is a former YIP fellow. Students in AliefVotes will have priority access to the fellowship and an opportunity to connect their grassroots efforts to personal, local, and global policy issues. This partnership reflects our commitment to supporting and giving back to local communities.

TESTIMONIALS



CLAIRE CUASAY - FOREIGN POLICY ANALYST

Policy has always been treated as something young people inherit, not something we shape, and YIP challenged that assumption for me. As a Foreign Policy Analyst, co-authoring briefs alongside fellows from across the United States gave me a framework for thinking: how to interrogate the status quo, identify what's broken, and build cohesive arguments with people who see the world differently. The credibility I built through YIP opened doors I didn't expect, eventually leading me to Chatham House's Common Futures Conversations, where I now develop and present policy ideas to senior diplomats and institutions, including the African and European Union. What makes YIP different is its mandate, a space where young people don't just consume policy, they evaluate it rigorously, nonpartisanly, and with the urgency of people who know they will inherit whatever gets decided in the next decade. We are the next leaders, and YIP treats us like we already are.



HENRY ECKERSLEY - JOURNAL EDITOR

What I find most meaningful is the opportunity to witness what happens when passionate young people, brilliant minds, and shared interests come together with a common purpose. YIP has taught me that policy is not just about research or debate, but about collaboration, curiosity, and the desire to create meaningful change. As a policy intern, I have grown more confident in my ability to think critically, communicate ideas clearly, and understand the real-world impact of policy work. Being part of YIP has shown me the power of youth voices in shaping the future, and that is what makes the experience so inspiring.

TESTIMONIALS



NICOLE LI - CO-DIRECTOR OF PROJECT INCUBATION

Post-Fellowship, I started out as a Development Intern at YIP. From writing grants to now directing the Incubation Project, I have developed stronger leadership, communication, and project management skills while collaborating with peers from around the world across different time zones. Through this experience, I've gained valuable insight into how to grow and sustain an organization, while also learning more about YIP's internal structure and operations.



TANISHA SHENOY - DIRECTOR OF VERTICAL CONTENT

Since joining the Institute for Youth in Policy in February 2024, I've had the chance to grow so much both personally and professionally. As Director of Vertical Content, I lead content and video strategy by turning complex policy research into clear, engaging articles and videos that are easier for people to understand. What I value most about my time here is being part of an organization that truly invests in young people and gives them the opportunity to create meaningful impact. The experience has strengthened my skills in research, communication, and leadership, and has shown me how powerful accessible policy education can be!

POLICY FELLOWSHIP

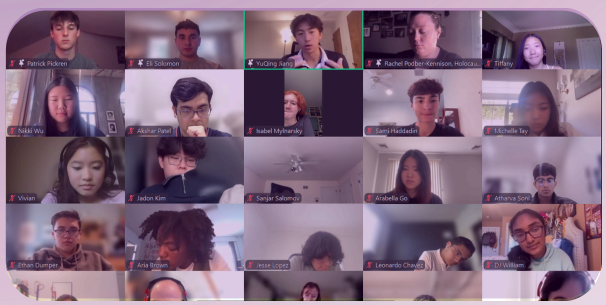
The fellowship is the cornerstone of what we do here at the Institute for Youth in Policy. It is a quarterly program in which we welcome groups of 40-70 students in engaging in policy discussions, critically analyzing civic solutions, and developing new innovations to meet the challenges of a changing world.

The program includes two synchronous meetings per week and an individual capstone project. Fellows complete a personal, local, and global policy module, each with workshops, simulations, and structured discussions. Every Saturday, Fellows meet to push forward in their capstone project, which draws together research, briefs, and legislative proposals to create actionable change around an issue they see in the world.

We are grateful for our partners who have donated their time to speak with our fellows. Recent cohorts have heard from leaders at the Innocent Project, members of Congress, local activists and community organizers, and administrators from Stanford's Deliberative Democracy Lab.

While applications have doubled and the fellowship has become more selective, the Institute is proud to offer the Global Rising Innovators in Policy course as another accessible platform for rigorous discourse and critical analysis.





Our "Three E's":

EDUCATE, ENGAGE, EMPOWER

THE THREE E'S IN ACTION

Our mission is united by the three E's: Educating, Engaging, and Empowering young leaders. Each of YIP's students progress through these core tenements, and we would like to ground just what this process can look like.

STUDENT #1:

EDUCATE

Joins the Effective Discourse Fellowship, completes a capstone on civic education in Indigenous communities

ENGAGE

Starts a staff role as an education curriculum intern, crafting resources and content for students around the world

EMPOWER

Pitches an idea to the Project Incubation team to build an organization centered on civic education in rural and Indigenous communities

STUDENT #2:

EDUCATE

Joins the YIP staff as a Policy Media Analyst, learning, researching, and writing about public health policy

ENGAGE

Brings policy briefs on the Ebola and Hantavirus outbreaks directly to the hands of their legislators through YIP's legislative outreach resources

EMPOWER

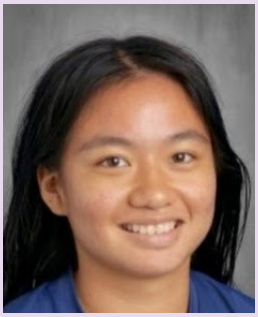
Speaks with students in YIP's new and piloted Career Center, gaining an internship in a real-world organization to continue pursuing public health policy

TESTIMONIALS



ADHI BALAMURUGAN - DIRECTOR OF COMPLIANCE

Serving as Director of Compliance at the Institute for Youth in Policy has been one of the most meaningful leadership experiences I've had. I've loved working alongside students from across the country who are deeply passiionate about policy and expanding opportunities for young people in public discourse. Watching the Institute create spaces for youth-led research and advocacy has been genuinely inspiring, and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to continue contributing to that mission.



JENNIE REN - EDUCATION OUTREACH INTERN

The fellowship allowed me to explore pressing issues with peers who were passionate about inciting change in multiple disciplines of policy–education, environment, and international. As an education outreach intern, I met leaders and fellow changemakers who cared about advancing the mission of nonpartisan policies, while being open to new ideas. I have learned to take polarizing ideas and turn them into opportunities for civic discourse. YIP is a lifelong community of political impact.

TESTIMONIALS



NIKKI WU - DEPUTY HEAD OF FELLOWSHIP

The most rewarding aspect of being in the Effective Discourse department is that I have the chance to watch fellows grow from their first capstone draft to their final publication. Through the process, I'm able to see their policy options develop, and helping them through this process has been incredibly rewarding. Most importantly, I value knowing that, even if it is in a small way, I got to leave an imprint on future changemakers and support them as they found confidence in their own voices.



MATTHEW JACOB - VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLISHING

Working in the interdisciplinary role of VP of Publishing taught me the importance of collaborating with colleagues across departments. From collaborating with the technology department to publish journal articles, partnering with marketing to choose the right times for social media posts related to publishing, and working with human resources to foster a smooth hiring and onboarding process with new hires, working in a role that requires communication with multiple departments has allowed me to realize the importance of collaborating as a team.

To the Friends and Supporters of the Institute,

As we reflect on another impactful year at YIP, we wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to our success. This year's achievements are a testament to the collective efforts of our incredible community, from our Board of Directors, to our institutional advisors (especially the Riley's Way Foundation, iCivics, and the Institute for Citizens and Scholars), to our partner organizations, and to our dedicated student community of staff, fellows, and alumni.

We are profoundly grateful to our fellows, alumni, and leadership teams, whose dedication to civic engagement and policy innovation continues to inspire and drive the core mission of YIP. Your achievements exemplify the impact of our programs and foster an innovative spirit that brings meaningful change. Across the Discourse, Policy, Education, Center for Civic Growth, and PIVOT departments, your commitment propels us forward.

We also deeply appreciate the time and wisdom shared by our guest speakers and expert contributors, including seasoned professionals and academics. Your insights enrich our fellows' experiences and broaden their perspectives.

Our partner organizations, including AliefVotes, Riley's Way, iCivics, Civic Leaders of America, Marco Learning, the Aspen Institute, the Gault Center, and many others are pillars of our success. Your collaboration has enhanced our curriculum and helped empower more young people in civic education.

To our donors and supporters, your generosity is the cornerstone of our ability to innovate and expand, enabling us to maintain our position as leaders and continue offering transformative experiences.

Lastly, we thank the families and supporters of our fellows and staff. We believe that you should be recognized for supporting our community and mission.

While we have the philosophy that our work should require as little funding as possible, the realities of what we do make development and fundraising crucial to the advancement of our programming, including aims to host in-person conferences and support new youth-led projects in our incubation program.

It is never easy to ask for money or feel the need to ask others to support us financially. Any and all donations are tax-deductible and go a long way to making our vision a reality. If you are able to contribute, please consider donating through this page or by emailing our CEO at asher@yipinstitute.org. We look forward to continued partnership.

Looking ahead, we are inspired by the collective strength and dedication of our YIP community. We look forward to continuing to meet the challenges of our changing world, while making it better, through our mission to Educate, Engage, and Empower youth leaders.

With many thanks,



Asher Cohen
Chief Executive Officer



Paul Kramer
Chairman and Co-Founder



THANK YOU FOR READING THE
2025–2026 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH IN POLICY.



PLEASE DIRECT ANY INQUIRIES TO
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