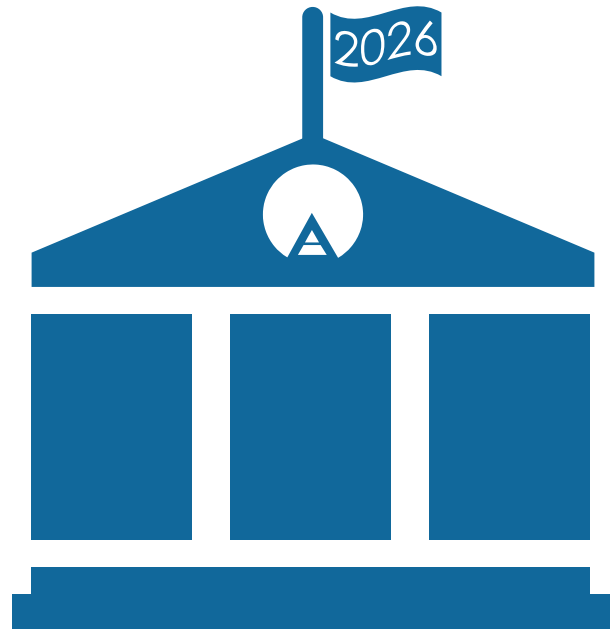




Municipal Intern Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

A COMPLETE COLLECTION OF PROJECT
DESCRIPTIONS FOR SUMMER 2026

Municipal Intern Program

The Municipal Intern Program (MIP) is a unique workforce development initiative that introduces undergraduate and graduate students to careers in local governments, Councils of Governments, and municipal authorities.

Students complete important community projects while gaining practical skills as they build a professional network of peers and mentors. Setting the stage for the next generation of leaders, MIP establishes the foundation for a successful career in local government.

This publication is the collection of Intern Projects completed by the graduates of the Municipal Intern Program, Class of 2026.

Program Sponsors



Thank You to our 2026 MIP Program Instructors

Ryan Jeroski

Hampton Township
Township Manager

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Borough of Dormont
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Sales & Leasing Associate

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Project Director

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Assistant Manager

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Local Government Planning Specialist

Patrick Conners

South Hills Area Council of Governments
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Kimberly Slater-Wood, Ed.D

ALCOSAN
*Manager of Municipal Relations
and Outreach*

Matt Barron

The Heinz Endowments
Program Director

2026 Municipal Interns

Madison McClellan

Baldwin Borough
*Recreation Operations and
Community Events Intern*

Abriana Bensch

Bellevue Borough and Bona Fide Bellevue
Community Planning and Revitalization Intern

Una Haines

Bradford Woods Borough
*Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
Stormwater Asset Accuracy
& Implementation Intern*

Maarten Griffioen

Canonsburg Borough
*PASER Street & Alley Condition
Assessment Intern*

Mary Bireley

Churchill Borough
*Community Engagement and
Municipal Projects Specialist Intern*

McKenzie McNamee

Borough of Edgeworth
*Residential Waste Collection Assessment and
Solution Development Intern*

Emanuel Hill

City of Johnstown
*Municipal Administration and Governmental
Operations Development Intern*

Jaden Rubright

City of Latrobe
*Blight Assessment and Anti-Blight
Initiatives Intern*

Kyle Radecki

City of Lower Burrell
*Comprehensive Business Inventory and GIS
Mapping of Key Commercial Corridors Intern*

Sydney Brower

Marshall Township
Community Outreach Intern

Quinn Miller

Marshall Township
Floodplain Inspector Intern

Caroline Ridge

Town of McCandless
*175th Anniversary Historic Archive
Modernization and Public Access
Project's Intern*

Danielle Reiland

North Fayette Township
Official Map Creation Intern

Avrey Ferczak

North Strabane Township
Communications Intern

Hope Fronczek

South Fayette Township
*Local Government Communications
and PDF Accessibility Intern*

Maggie Jones

Steel Rivers COG/Tri-COG Land Bank
*Clean Tech Clusters and Regional Blight
Assessment Intern*

Wayeera Robertson

Steel Rivers Council of Governments
Municipal Finance Program Intern

Jianing (Caroline) Guo

Turtle Creek Valley
Council of Governments
Shared Services Financial Assistant Intern

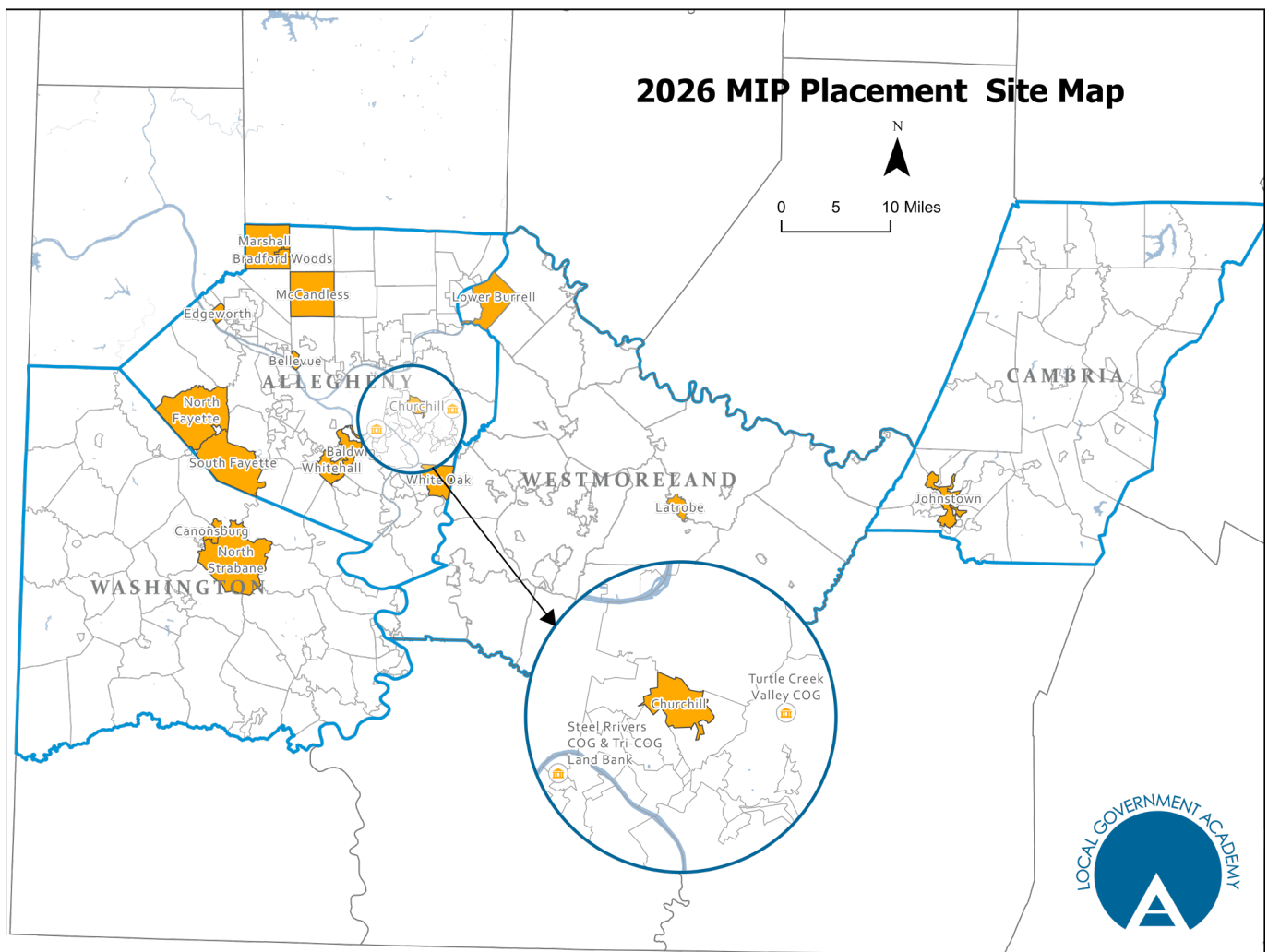
Leo Rosner

White Oak Borough
Planning/Zoning/Code Enforcement Intern

Margaret Study

Whitehall Borough
*Strategic Parks Planning and
Assessment Intern*

2026 Placement Site Map



Madison McClelland

Baldwin Borough

Recreation Operations and Community Events Intern

Supervisor: Dom Shuck - Recreation and Events Director

Dates: May - July 2026

Executive Summary

My internship with LGA has provided me with valuable hands-on experience in municipal government, allowing me to develop practical skills in community engagement and public service. Throughout my time at LGA, I have gained a deeper understanding of how local governments operate while contributing to initiatives that directly benefit the community. One of the most rewarding aspects of this internship has been the opportunity to take on a well-rounded role that combines planning, outreach, and municipal operations. I have assisted with the planning and coordination of recreation programs and community events, helping to ensure that these initiatives are organized and engaging. In addition, I have supported communication efforts by creating promotional materials and helping expand community outreach to increase participation and awareness of Borough programs and events.

This experience has strengthened my organizational, communication, and problem-solving abilities while providing meaningful insight into the collaboration required to successfully manage municipal programs and services. Working alongside dedicated professionals has reinforced the importance of teamwork and adaptability in local government. Overall, this internship has been both professionally and personally rewarding. It has expanded my knowledge of municipal operations, enhanced my confidence in a professional setting, and further solidified my interest in pursuing a career in the legal field.

Local Government Academy

This unique workforce development initiative offers a paid summer internship that gives students a chance to apply their academic knowledge in real world settings while gaining practical experience completing worthwhile community projects. Established in 1983, Local Government Academy is a non-partisan, Non-Profit, with the mission to Promote Excellence in Local Government.



Education

Bachelor of Liberal Arts in Political Science, Sociology, and Criminal Justice ('27)
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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program

The Sigma Kappa (Kappa Mu)

Sorority Member

The National Society of Leadership and Success (Sigma Alpha Pi) Member

The International Sociology Honors

Society (Alpha Kappa Delta) Member



In my placement site, I developed practical skills in communication, organization, and engagement while gaining a deeper understanding of how municipal government serves and supports its people.

Abriana Bensch

Borough of Bellevue and Bona Fide Bellevue
Community Planning and Revitalization Intern
Supervisors: Andrea Contes - Assistant Director of
Administrative Services
Leann Chaney - Bona Fide Bellevue Board Chair
Dates: May - August 2026

Executive Summary

As the intern for Bellevue Borough and Bona Fide Bellevue this summer, I have gained hands-on experience in community building, municipal leadership, and non-profit support. When I began with both organizations, my main goal was to assist with Active Transportation Plan (ATP) implementation, which is led by both the borough and by Bona Fide Bellevue, a non-profit who I have shared my time with this summer in addition to the municipality.

Splitting my time between both groups has shown me the value that strong voices in the community can make. As I met with numerous members of the community, I learned that every pillar and every idea within the ATP has intense advocates. It made me encouraged and even more passionate to want to continue to advocate with them.

I have ultimately found most of my work to be centered on one idea – the history of Bellevue. I believe that in using this history, I can do all of the above. I can understand the “why” behind so many parts of Bellevue, and help community members understand more about the area they love. Lastly, I believe understanding why something came to be is one way to undoing it. For example, Ohio River Boulevard is a huge concern in the Active Transportation Plan, and in learning and eventually sharing the history of this road in Bellevue, I hope to make progress towards a safer, more walkable, and even more vibrant community.

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Education

Bachelor of Arts, Social and Political
History ('27)
Carnegie Mellon University

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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program
WRCT
CMU Arts Greenhouse



In my first week, my coworker showed me 100 year old negatives. They became the center of the rest of my internship! I analyzed, preserved, and digitally archived them for once I leave the borough.

Una Haines

Bradford Woods Borough
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Stormwater Asset
Accuracy & Implementation Intern
Supervisor: Rusti Null - Borough Manager
Dates: May - August 2026

Executive Summary

As the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Stormwater Asset Accuracy & Implementation Intern for the Borough of Bradford Woods, I had the opportunity to apply GIS skills I've developed throughout school to real-world problems. The scope of my project was focused on ensuring the accuracy and implementation of the Borough's stormwater infrastructure on the web-based GIS platform, TRAISR. The Borough is responsible for the maintenance of roughly 180 catch basins, 77 outfalls, 17 headwalls & endwalls, 51 culvert pipes, and miles and miles of stormwater pipes.

The Borough's staff is small, consisting only of a manager and part-time public works employee, so my role as an intern was to do a deep dive into TRAISR to ensure that all information pertaining to stormwater in the Borough was accurately and effectively mapped, streamlining the process of responding to any stormwater issues that might arise. Increasing heavy stormwater events have meant that an accurate map is more crucial than ever, especially in a rural, hilly region. By working directly with the Borough Manager, I had first-hand experience witnessing the many spheres which local government touches upon. I also had experience in the field with the Public Works department surveying and inspecting stormwater infrastructure, which was a complete crash course in civil engineering.

The opportunity to weld my interests in environmental health and GIS with real-world municipal issues was enormously rewarding.

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Education

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Environmental Health ('26)
Boston University

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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program



I got first-hand experience inspecting stormwater infrastructure out in the field, which deepened my understanding of the need for careful, detailed surveillance of real-world assets in GIS.

Maarten Griffioen

Borough of Canonsburg
PASER Street & Alley Condition Assessment Intern
Supervisor: Jennifer Foster - Borough Manager
Dates: June - August 2026

Executive Summary

During my internship with the Borough of Canonsburg, I gained practical experience in data analysis, infrastructure management, and municipal operations. My primary responsibility was supporting road maintenance planning using the Vialytics road assessment system, an AI powered tool that evaluates roadway conditions. I began by driving every street and alley in the borough to capture surface conditions using the Vialytics device, which photographs the roadway every ten feet and tags each image with GPS coordinates and timestamps. The system's AI then identifies issues such as cracking, potholes, and surface deterioration, producing objective and consistent data for decision making. I analyzed this roadway condition data and used Microsoft Excel to organize information, build prioritization models, and help identify streets most in need of maintenance.

Throughout the internship, I strengthened my analytical, problem-solving, and technical skills while learning how local governments use data to make cost-effective infrastructure decisions. I also improved my communication and teamwork by collaborating with borough staff on various projects.

Overall, this internship allowed me to apply knowledge from my business and economics studies in a professional setting while developing valuable experience in data-driven decision-making, Excel, and public administration.

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Education

Bachelor of Arts, Business
Administration ('27)
Washington & Jefferson College

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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program



At my internship site, I gained hands-on experience analyzing roadway infrastructure, using Excel and Vialytics software, and applying data analysis to support maintenance planning and decision-making.

Mary Bireley

Churchill Borough
Community Engagement and Municipal Projects
Specialist Intern
Supervisor: Ashley Brown - Assistant Borough Manager
and Finance Officer
Dates: May - August 2026

Executive Summary

Approximately 10 miles east of downtown Pittsburgh, Churchill Borough is a small but vibrant town with a local government committed to creating a safe and healthy community for all of its residents and visitors.

As Churchill's Community Engagement and Project Specialist Intern, my primary focus has been on supporting resident and administrative needs for the borough. With Churchill being so small, I have gotten the opportunity to try on all of the "hats" that come along with a career in local government. My daily responsibilities have included serving as the point of contact for residents and connecting them with municipal resources, maintaining the borough's financial records, issuing no lien letters, and overseeing the borough's website and social media platforms.

Through my role I have also worked closely with the borough's council, committees, and boards to support their various ongoing projects. I collaborated with the Communications Committee to successfully publish the borough's summer newsletter, which featured many articles I wrote and edited. I have been coordinating with the Recreation Board and community partners to plan and execute their annual community day and other local events. I have also been supporting the Infrastructure Committee in their ongoing efforts to build the town's first ADA compliant playground.

With such a wide variety of experiences, my time at Churchill has undoubtedly prepared me for an exciting future career in local government.

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Education

Master of Science in Public Policy
and Management ('27)
Carnegie Mellon University

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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program



In my placement site, I gained hands-on experience working under the borough's Finance Officer on financial audits and budget narratives.

McKenzie McNamee

Edgeworth Borough
Residential Waste Collection Assessment and
Solution Development Intern
Supervisor: Amy Brown - Assistant Manager
and Ellen Politi - Borough Manager
Dates: June - August 2026

Executive Summary

During my internship with Edgeworth Borough, I completed a Residential Waste Collection Assessment and Solutions Development project focused on improving the Borough's residential waste collection system. My work combined field assessments, GIS mapping, environmental policy analysis, and data management to evaluate current waste collection practices.

Key responsibilities included creating a GIS mapping system for residential waste services, collecting and verifying field data, analyzing service classifications, reviewing municipal waste policies and contracts, and developing recommendations to improve efficiency and sustainability. I also created educational materials for residents and presented findings to Borough Council.

This internship demonstrated how GIS, environmental policy, and data-driven decision-making can improve municipal operations. The experience strengthened my skills in spatial analysis, research, communication, and problem-solving while providing practical experience in environmental planning and municipal sustainability.

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Education

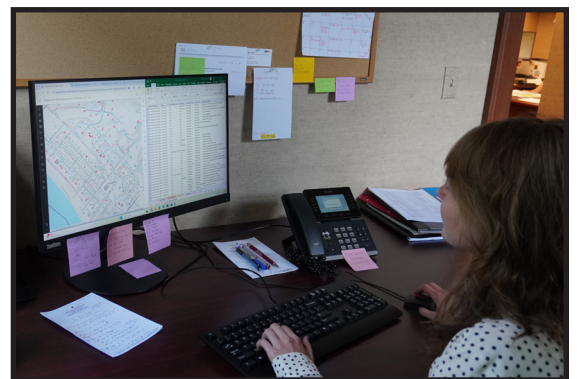
Bachelor of Science, Environmental
Geoscience: Concentration in
Environmental Policy ('27)
Slippery Rock University

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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program



During my internship with Edgeworth Borough, I gained hands-on experience in municipal waste management, GIS mapping, environmental policy analysis, and field data collection.

Emanuel Hill

City of Johnstown

Municipal Administration and Governmental
Operations Development Intern

Supervisor: Jennifer Burkhart - Executive Secretary

Dates: May - August 2026

Executive Summary

My time with the City of Johnstown has been a truly eye opening introduction to local government. I never thought much about how municipal operations worked, but navigating daily challenges and working closely with staff has been an amazing experience.

As a recent graduate of the Greater Johnstown Senior High School, I earned an associate's degree in liberal arts and science through the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College creating and this internship is my first internship experience. Over the past three months, I've dipped my toes into nearly every aspect of city operations from permitting and demolition to record keeping, restoration, and community engagement.

I've gained hands on experience in the City Clerk and City Manager's Office, assisted with the farmers market and community prevention initiatives, participated in Code Enforcement, joined police ride along to better understand public safety, digitized historical records, updated the municipal website, attended council and planning meetings, and supported recreation planning as the city prepares to open its new downtown park.

This has been one of the most diverse and rewarding experiences an intern could have, and I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity.

Local Government Academy

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Education

Physical Therapy/Health
Administration ('29)
Mount Aloysius College

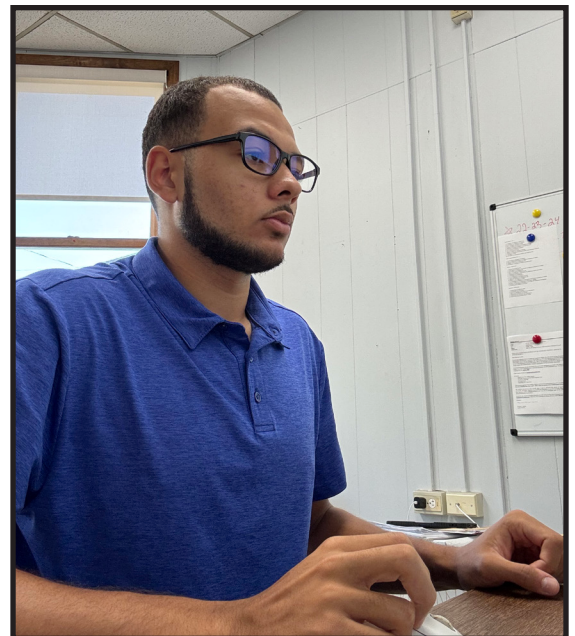
Contact

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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program



In the placement site I gained experience digitizing historical documents of ordinances, council meetings, amongst many other things.

Jaden Rubright

City of Latrobe

Blight Assessment and Anti-Blight Initiatives Intern

Supervisor: Joshua Mayro - Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer

Dates: May - August 2026

Executive Summary

The City of Latrobe is a small community in Westmoreland County with a rich industrial history, now working to address blight, modernize its zoning processes, and prepare for emerging land-use challenges. During my internship, I supported the city's anti-blight efforts by helping document a citywide blight inventory, assessing the exterior conditions of roughly 3,900 properties and recording key details such as land use type (single-family, multi-family, commercial, or vacant), the presence of accessory dwelling units, and existing solar panel installations. To help translate these findings into policy, I assisted in drafting and updating eight new building code ordinances aimed at strengthening the city's ability to combat blight.

I also contributed to Latrobe's zoning modernization efforts by helping digitize the city's zoning map in ArcGIS, assigning each parcel a value corresponding to its zoning designation. This digitized map is intended to be published on the city's website, making it easier for residents to understand their property's zoning classification and applicable restrictions.

Finally, to help the city stay ahead of emerging land-use pressures, I researched data center ordinances from comparable municipalities and assisted in drafting an initial ordinance proposal for city council's consideration, ensuring Latrobe has appropriate regulations in place before facing development pressure.

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Education

Master of Public & International Affairs ('26)

University of Pittsburgh

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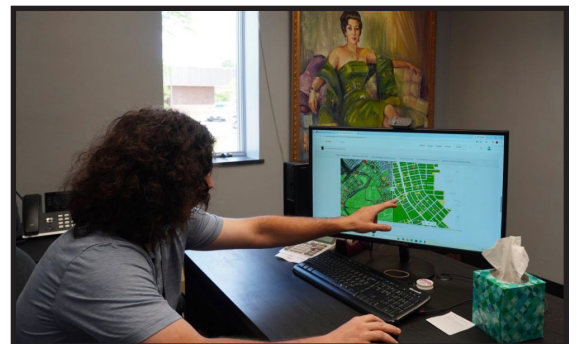
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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program

SPIA Student Cabinet



This is me explaining how the blight inventory project works and showing the progress that had been made throughout my time in Latrobe.

Kyle Radecki

City of Lower Burrell
Comprehensive Business Inventory and GIS
Mapping of Key Commercial Corridors Intern
Supervisor: Gregory Primm - City Manager
Dates: May - August 2026

Executive Summary

I am working to create a new database for the City of Lower Burrell that will help keep track of businesses along the main business district while also gathering feedback from business owners to allow the city to improve and address the needs of local businesses.

The feedback questions include issues they are facing, any traffic or parking issues, if any abandoned properties nearby affect them, what they believe will help the city, and other open ended feedback they may have. This feedback is then sent to Survey123 where it tracks and organized to show who is saying what and to show what some of the most common complaints are.

The collected data is also sent to a map on ArcGIS Online where a point is created for each business that shows the business name, owner name, contact information, and property owner information.

Local Government Academy

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Education

Urban Planning and Geospatial
Analysis ('27)
University of Pittsburgh

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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program



I am preparing a document to hand out to business owners that explains my project, it explains my job of gathering their feedback and information to go on a GIS database.

Sydney Brower

Marshall Township
Community Outreach Intern
Supervisor: Nicole Hanson - Planning Director
Dates: May - August 2026

Executive Summary

Marshall Township, under its current management, is dedicated to modernizing dated processes and improving resident relations. I supported these efforts on several fronts during my time as an intern.

My primary project was to consolidate and drive community engagement efforts. I took full responsibility for management of our social media platforms, established accessibility standards across our online platforms, and identified the local organizations interested in collaborations with the Township.

My secondary project was to establish a framework for Data Governance and AI policies. As the Township transitions from analog to digital processes, the amount of data created and stored is increasing drastically. Though implementation of Data Governance can take several years, I researched, planned, and piloted an approach to ensure Township data is held to security, quality, and accessibility standards.

Throughout the summer, I also had many small projects. I shadowed the finance and planning directors, and assisted in their meetings and reviews. I met with each department to review their upcoming capital improvement projects, the results of which were used to construct the 2027 budget and 10-year projection. My many hats allowed me to understand the full scope of local government, network with professionals in fields that interest me, and build a range of transferable skills.

Local Government Academy

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Education

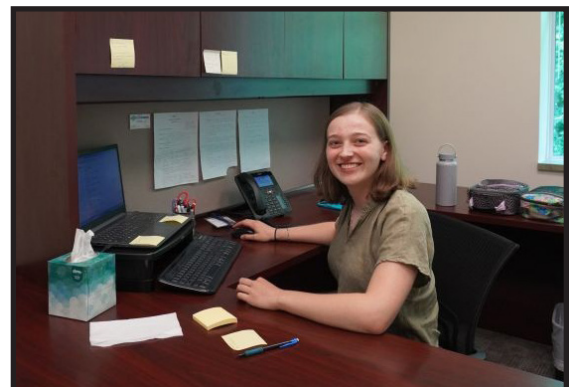
Bachelor of Science, Public Policy
Analysis ('28)
The Ohio State University

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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program
International City/County
Management Association
American Planning Association
American Public Works Association
John Glenn College of Public Affairs



In my internship, I interacted first-hand with community members through social media management, site visits to local businesses, and attending public meetings.

Quinn Miller

Marshall Township
Floodplain Inspector Intern
Supervisor: Nicole Hanson - Planning Director
Dates: May - August 2026

Executive Summary

As a municipal intern with Marshall Township, I helped protect the community from flood risks through inspection and data collection.

My internship has allowed me to utilize the emergency management skills I have learned from college. Being able to apply concepts learned in the classroom to real world situation has been incredibly helpful in my professional development.

For the duration of my internship, I have gone to every property within Marshall Townships floodplain and ensured compliance with FEMA and PEMA guidelines.

These guidelines are set in place to protect property owners from the devastation major flooding can produce. Being able to help alleviate some of the vulnerabilities in the municipality has been extremely fulfilling.

Local Government Academy

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Education

B.S. Homeland Security & B.A.
Philosophy ('28)
Slippery Rock University

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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program
ACFE
PAARNG



A view of the beautiful community I am working to protect from flood risks.

Caroline Ridge

Town of McCandless

175th Anniversary Historic Archive Modernization and Public Access Project's Intern

Supervisor: Abby Lucostic - Parks & Recreation Director

Dates: May - July 2026

Executive Summary

Through my LGA internship at the Town of McCandless, I had the opportunity to work with the Parks and Recreation Director on the preservation and revitalization of local history in the McCandless and surrounding North Hills communities. The bulk of my project consisted of scanning historic photos (some as early as the mid-1800s!) to add to the permanent collection of the Heritage and Cultural Center's legacy. Additionally, I learned how local government operates, including meeting with internal departments, such as DPW, Police, Zoning & Planning, Finance, and outside community partnerships, such as the Ambulance Authority, Waste Management, and the Northland Public Library.

My favorite part of my time with the Town of McCandless was planning and executing community events to celebrate the Town's 175 Anniversary. This includes the Birthday 5K on the 4th of July, the Appraisal Fair, the Scanning Party, and preliminary Community Day planning. These events encourage residents to participate in the community, while promoting the celebration of the Anniversary of McCandless.

Furthermore, I expanded my writing skills by assisting with Grant Applications for McCandless' first ever Restaurant Week, reviewing and editing an article about the Town's 175th Anniversary for the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society, and contributing photos to the Town's biannual newsletter.

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Education

Master's of Science, Public Policy and Management ('27)
Carnegie Mellon University

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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program



At McCandless, I worked with Parks and Recreation Director, Abby Lucostic, to identify historic photos of McCandless and the surrounding North Hills region.

Danielle Reiland

North Fayette Township
Official Map Creation Intern
Supervisors: Bob Derosky - Director of Community Development and Jonathan Brodak - Community Planner
Dates: May - August 2026

Executive Summary

North Fayette Township is a mid-size suburb west of Pittsburgh. With a rapidly growing population, the township is focusing on developing intentionally and sustainably.

As the Community Development Intern with North Fayette Township, my main project was updating the township's official map, to be included with the upcoming Comprehensive Plan. This involved both creating and compiling GIS data from various sources to create a map that accurately represents the township's future development goals. In addition to updating the official map, I made various maps used as visual aids in land development meetings, including interactive web maps. I also used GPS technology to locate infrastructure that was not previously accounted for in the township's GIS database. Additionally, I attended land development meetings and learned about the permitting and development process.

During my time at North Fayette, I learned about the everyday operations of municipal government, particularly relating to land development. This internship sparked my interest in community planning and gave me an opportunity to apply my GIS skills in real-world situations. I'm grateful to LGA and North Fayette Township for the opportunities to learn more about local government, and to contribute to projects that will positively impact the township.

Local Government Academy

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Education

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Pennsylvania Western University-California

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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program



In this photo, I'm presenting an early draft of the official map to my supervisor.

Avrey Ferczak

North Strabane Township

Communications Intern

Supervisor: Patrick Karnash - Township Manager

Dates: May - August 2026

Executive Summary

As the 2026 Communications Intern for North Strabane Township through the Local Government Academy, I had the opportunity to gain real experience in municipal communications to support the Township's events and community outreach initiatives. My responsibilities included creating branded digital content for Facebook and Instagram, designing promotional materials, event photography, and updating/redesigning the Township's website to improve the ease of use and community engagement.

At North Strabane Township, I developed a variety of materials like event flyers, banners, social media graphics, videos, website content, and informational resources such as park infographics and a newsletter template. I worked extensively within the Township's website platform, where I contributed to web design, content organization, improvement with accessibility, and experience enhancements. I also had the opportunity to collaborate with the Parks & Recreation staff to promote and design graphics for events such as Community Day, Holidays in the Park, and more. I was able to photograph activities like Community Day that can be used in future promotional materials.

This internship helped me strengthen my skills in graphic design, web design, photography, videography, copywriting, branding, and digital marketing to provide a valuable experience communicating to a diverse group of residents at North Strabane.

Local Government Academy

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Education

Bachelor of Science, Communications
Media/Marketing ('27)
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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program
American Marketing Association
(AMA), Indiana University of
Pennsylvania: Executive Board-
Social Chair & Event Coordination
Committee



At my placement site, I designed the official map for North Strabane Township Community Day 2026, developing an organized and easy to follow guide that helped attendees navigate activities.

Hope Fronczek

South Fayette Township
Local Government Communications and
PDF Accessibility Intern
Supervisor: Andrea Iglar - Director of Communications
and Community Development
Dates: May - August 2026

Executive Summary

The main project of my internship was a PDF remediation initiative designed to bring public resources and forms into compliance with new federal regulations. For this project, I reviewed the new requirements and exceptions of the rule under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and developed a systematic method for evaluating and categorizing documents. I then took the action needed to update those files, using tools like CivicPlus and Adobe Acrobat to build new digital forms, alter existing PDFs, and update our township website. I also created job aids and trained township staff in new workflows to ensure long-term compliance.

In addition to this project, I contributed to the summer edition of the township's quarterly magazine, South Fayette Connect. I conducted archival research, interviewed local business owners, and authored 5 pieces for various sections of the magazine. I also produced multimedia content at community events, capturing both photo and video content for the magazine and social media platforms. My role also involved community outreach efforts, including local business events and a South West Regional Chamber of Commerce networking luncheon.

This position granted me the opportunity to connect with residents and municipal professionals and learn more about the surrounding community. Ultimately, my internship has taught me the true impact of our municipalities and instilled a greater appreciation for the work that local government does.

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Education

Bachelor of Arts, Pre-law ('26)
American University

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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program



In my role, I provided logistical support and produced social media content at township events like the Summer Kickoff Concert, iCan Bike Graduation Day, and Touch-a-Truck.

Maggie Jones

Steel Rivers COG (SRCOG) & Tri-COG Land Bank (TCLB)
Clean Tech Clusters and Regional Blight Assessment Intern
Supervisor: An Lewis - Executive Director
Dates: May - August 2026

Executive Summary

During my time with SRCOG and TCLB, I learned the process of grant applications and how the COG connects member municipalities to funding sources for various public projects. I reached out to municipal leaders to help construct a narrative for the Greenways, Parks, and Recreation Program (GTRP) grant. In addition, I conducted research for a COG project, Alliance for Local Investment Growth Network (ALIGN), and put together an ArcGIS StoryMap to convey the regional opportunity for growth of clean technology. I also explored research opportunities for TCLB to help guide procedural changes in the Side Lot Program pricing and logistics of a developer's agreement in member municipalities, to promise a certain percentage of affordable housing in private development.

Lastly, throughout my internship, I worked closely with Pennsylvania Land Bank Network (PALBN). I used GIS to create static and interactive maps to display the footprint of Pennsylvania's land banks and redevelopment authorities. Also, I worked to organize the online resource hub to provide a more user-friendly experience for PALBN members to connect directly with helpful information regarding all aspects of land banking operations.

I am grateful to TCLB, the COG, and LGA for the opportunity to participate in this wonderful program! I had the benefit of learning technical processes of land banking, the significance of coalition building in this region, and using GIS to support municipal and policy research.

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Education

Bachelor of Science, Urban Planning and Geographic Analysis ('27)
Bachelor of Arts, Urban Studies ('27)
Master of Public Administration, Urban Affairs and Planning ('28)
University of Pittsburgh

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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program
GSPIA
Oakland Community Ambassador:
Off Campus Student Services



Image of my team and I at Urban Land Institute Pittsburgh's UrbanPlan activity after our successful presentation as the winning team of the day!

Wayeera Robertson

Steel Rivers Council of Governments (SRCOG)
Municipal Finance Program Intern
Supervisor: Kristin Gusten - Finance and
Administration Director
Dates: July - August 2026

Executive Summary

In this position, I have gained hands-on experience working at the municipal level to help reconstruct and organize historical financial data for the Borough of Homestead, in addition to researching ways to use their data to inform financial decision-making and daily operations.

I am also working on cross-departmental projects where I am developing skills in story map creation, clean and steel manufacturing industry research, and basic analysis in industry employment trends and local investment.

The Steel Rivers Council of Governments (SRCOG) is a regional organization representing 19 municipalities in the Mon Valley, working collaboratively to address shared challenges through sustainable, long term solutions. The Steel Rivers Council of Governments mission is to coordinate resources, services, and ideas that strengthen member communities and support regional progress.

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Education

Master of Science, Masters of Public
Administration, Quantitative
Economics ('26)
Governance and International Public
Management ('27)
University of Pittsburgh

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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program
SPIA



At SRCOG, I am conducting background research on Mon-Valley Works plants for our ALIGN initiative on US Steel, which calls for producing local clean steel.

Jianing (Caroline) Guo

Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments
Shared Services Financial Assistant Intern
Supervisor: Natalie Merola - Director of Operations
Dates: May - August 2026

Executive Summary

As the Shared Services Financial Assistant Project Intern through the Local Government Academy Municipal Internship Program, I supported financial and administrative projects serving multiple municipalities. My responsibilities included assisting with utility billing, organizing financial records, performing bank reconciliations, and supporting the implementation and testing of AccuFund accounting software. I also researched multi-municipal refuse services and shared service models to identify best practices. In addition, I prepared meeting summaries, documented procedures, and contributed to projects that improved organizational efficiency.

Throughout my internship, I gained hands-on experience in municipal finance while strengthening my analytical, organizational, and problem-solving skills. Working with experienced professionals gave me valuable insight into regional cooperation and demonstrated how shared services can improve efficiency and support local communities. I also developed a deeper understanding of how collaboration and effective financial management contribute to successful local government operations.

This internship reinforced my interest in public administration and public service while allowing me to apply classroom knowledge in a professional setting. I am grateful to the Local Government Academy, my supervisor, Natalie Merola, and the TCVCOG team for their guidance and for the opportunity to contribute to projects that support local communities.

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Education

Master of Public Administration ('27)
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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program
MPA Student Representative, School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA)



In my placement site, I supported municipal finance by organizing financial records, assisting with utility billing, and working with AccuFund accounting software.

Leo Rosner

White Oak Borough
Planning/Zoning/Code Enforcement Intern
Supervisor: John Snelson - Code Enforcement Officer
Dates: May - August 2026

Executive Summary

My internship with the Borough of White Oak was heavily centered around zoning and code enforcement. I thoroughly examined White Oak's code and zoning regulations to mark down blighted properties that were either vacant or subject to code violations. I also performed mainly residential inspections with my supervisor, John Snelson, to ensure properties were fit for occupancy.

In addition, I developed a comprehensive list of tax delinquent parcels that, after investigation, were deemed blighted and or vacant. The data that I collected was used to create a GIS visualization of priority properties throughout the borough. This information assisted the newly founded Blight Committee, whose meetings I have attended. The goal is to assess blight and develop in-depth strategies to combat its impact on the Borough and residents.

Furthermore, White Oak is in the process of constructing an updated joint comprehensive plan with the township of South Versailles. I've had the pleasure of observing the course of this, which has all been made possible by a participatory planning process that involves a resident-led steering committee and the help of both EPD and a dedicated planning consultant.

My project has given me great insight into the everyday function of municipal government, as well as how both private and public sectors collaborate with each other. I am extremely grateful to have been provided this opportunity by both LGA and White Oak Borough, and am excited to use the skills I have learned to further enhance my career.

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Education

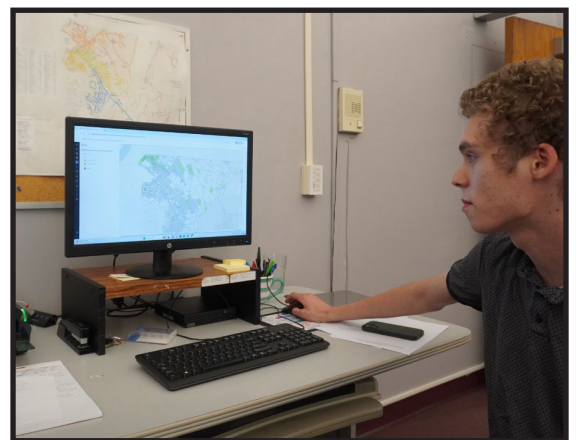
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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program



In my placement site, I've used GIS data to further highlight blighted properties, which will assist the Blight and Steering Committees in creating strategic plans to combat this issue.

Margaret Study

Whitehall Borough
Strategic Parks Planning and Assessment Intern
Supervisor: Alyssa Rogalla - Assistant Borough Manager
Dates: May - August 2026

Executive Summary

During the internship with Whitehall Borough, my main project was to assist with the process of updating the 2019 Parks Master Plan. The Borough has six neighborhood parks and two undeveloped park sites, one of which was acquired after the first Parks Master Plan was published. Many parks received partial upgrades since enacting the first Parks Master Plan seven years ago, but a reevaluation is needed to confirm if the existing plan is still valid and relevant. My job was to compile the data collected from the first public survey, compose and publish a second public survey, assist in running the first public meeting, prepare materials for the second public meeting, and provide a final report of all findings.

To reveal the results, I developed a comprehensive presentation with the data collected from Survey 1 and Public Meeting 1. I created many graphs and visuals of the findings, noting trends and outliers. I presented this information to the council at a regular meeting. We also conducted stakeholder interviews with youth sports organizations to gain an understanding of their wants and needs for the Park updates. In addition to working with Administration on Parks Planning, I spent time with Code Enforcement, Planning and Zoning, the Police Department, the Library, and got a glimpse into the budgeting process. My project and the time spent with different departments provided me with extremely valuable internship experience with local government.

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Education

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Professional Affiliations

Municipal Intern Program
GSPIA
Delta Alpha Pi Honors Society



I presented findings, results, and trends from Survey 1 and Public Meeting 1 to our council members during a June meeting before composing Survey 2 for release on July 1st.



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