InnovateGov

Department of Political Science
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF
SOCIAL SCIENCE

OUR SCIENCE TRANSFORMS THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE
AND INSPIRES LEADERS
In 2013, the City of Detroit became the largest US city ever to declare municipal bankruptcy. Due to population loss and declining resources, the City of Detroit substantially reduced its local government workforce. These cuts resulted in severe erosion of basic public services that Detroit residents rely on for their daily lives - drinking water, policing, streetlights, and parks. Michigan State University social scientists have been studying the loss of local government capacity in the City of Detroit.

We can contribute to Detroit’s revitalization. InnovateGov prepares and delivers MSU’s most vital resource - talented, diverse, and motivated students - to Detroit’s civic institutions. Students are placed in local governments, community organizations and businesses. In addition to the contributions to the city, these students have the unique opportunity to do real and impactful work on social challenges.

In five years, over 165 InnovateGov fellows from multiple colleges and majors have provided leaders in over 40 Detroit civic organizations with the capacity and human capital necessary to tackle high-impact projects that touch every neighborhood in the city.

We recruit and support doers - students may struggle in a traditional classroom environment and yet be extremely effective in their jobs. We prioritize diversity, inclusivity, and the recruitment and financial support of MSU Detroiters into InnovateGov.
After completing the InnovateGov program, over 20 students have accepted full-time positions in civic institutions throughout the City of Detroit, including the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, the City of Detroit Health Department, Income Tax Department, Build Institute of Detroit, and others.

**TALENT INVESTMENT**

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<tr>
<th>STUDENTS ACCEPTED FULL-TIME POSITIONS</th>
<th>20+</th>
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<tr>
<td>PLAN TO RETURN TO DETROIT AFTER GRADUATION TO WORK</td>
<td>70%</td>
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**AYESHA MIAH** (2016)

Ayesha, a 2018 Political Science graduate, was raised in Detroit’s Bengali community, and worked for Detroit Future City while in InnovateGov. She spent the summer working on Detroit’s urban footprint, and how to place Detroit as a leading city in sustainability during her junior year in 2016. In 2017 as a senior, Ayesha worked as the InnovateGov student coordinator, and in 2018 she was the partnership liaison for the program. Ayesha, a Challenge Detroit Fellow, recently accepted a full-time position as Project Coordinator for the Detroit Regional Partnership.

**JOCELYN SAMPLE** (2016)

Jocelyn, a Human Development and Family Studies major and Detroit native, worked at the Wayne County Treasury during her time in InnovateGov. In 2016, as a senior, she spent her summer walking door to door, helping residents who were behind on their taxes stay in their homes. Her efforts helped establish a lasting partnership with Wayne County Treasury, and MSU students have now helped prevent over 1,000 families from losing their homes. Jocelyn accepted a full-time job at Wayne County Treasury upon graduation in 2017.

**EVAN RAY ADAMS** (2018)

Evan was a second year Masters in Public Policy Program student when he interned at Build Institute Detroit through InnovateGov. Evan worked directly with local entrepreneurs, assisting them with the process of starting their own business, and connecting them to available resources. He completely revamped Build’s database, to better track their contributions to business ownership in Detroit. Evan was offered a full-time position after graduation, and is currently working for Build Institute.
Those interested in getting involved with the program are encouraged to learn more by visiting polisci.msu.edu or contact:

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