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.

- **Impact 2015 - 2019**
  - 40+ Civic & Governmental Organizations
  - 165+ MSU Students

- **Inclusive Engagement**
  - 56% Underrepresented Racial & Ethnic Minority Groups
  - 67% From Detroit Metro
  - 40% From Detroit City Limits
  - 22 Different Majors
SAVED 1000 FROM HOME FORECLOSURE
MSU students devised a process to assist over 1000 Wayne County residents in danger of home foreclosure. The students successfully arranged payment plans to cancel the foreclosure process.

DEVELOPED STRATEGIES TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN TEACHERS
MSU students presented strategies to Detroit Public Schools Superintendent Nikolai Vitti to attract and retain teaching talent.

IMPROVED THE 2020 CENSUS PROCESS
MSU students worked to prepare strategies for the 2020 census with Detroit’s Department of Neighborhoods, ensuring that the City of Detroit is properly represented.

STRENGTHENED BUSINESS CONNECTIONS
MSU students launched an online system to connect businesses through the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation.

ERICA RALEIGH
Director of Data Driven Detroit
This program is wildly valuable, not only to MSU and its students, but also to the organizations in which the students are placed. For the students, they tackle real-world policy issues on the ground. For the participating organizations, hosting students creates an opportunity to see old problems from a new perspective and brings additional capacity to important projects.
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

20+ STUDENTS ACCEPTED FULL-TIME POSITIONS

70% PLAN TO RETURN TO DETROIT AFTER GRADUATION TO WORK
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 Detroit native, worked at the Wayne County Treasury during her time in InnovateGov. 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.

EVAN RAY ADAMS (2018)

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.
CHRISTINE MASON SONERAL
Senior Vice President & General Counsel, ITC Holdings, Inc.

AVERY WILLIAMS
Founding Member & Managing Partner, Williams Acosta, PLLC

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Bilingual Education Department
Health Services

Buildings, Safety Engineering & Environment Department
Water & Sewerage Department
Department of Neighborhoods
Office of Immigrant Affairs
Lean Process Management
Office of Faith Based & Community Affairs
Office of the Treasury, Income Tax Division
Office of the Treasury, Property Tax Division
Office of Grants Management
Assessor’s Office
Detroit Police Department, Criminal Intelligence
Health Department
Office of the Chief Financial Officer
Department of Innovation & Technology
Department of Transportation
Planning & Development Department

Department of Health, Veterans & Community Wellness
Department of Treasury
3rd Circuit Court
Those interested in getting involved with the program are encouraged to learn more by visiting polisci.msu.edu or contact:

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