

## Who We Are

### Candra Reeves, President



Candra Reeves is a second year student pursuing a Master's in Public Policy with a concentration in social justice policy. Candra is the President of the School of Public Affairs Graduate Student Council. Prior to serving as President, Candra served as the Master of Public Policy (MPP) Representative for the Graduate Student Council, where she worked to represent the interests of the MPP students and learned how to better serve the constituency. Candra graduated with a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Georgia, Athens. After graduating, she went on to pursue her first Master's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati. Prior to joining American University, Candra worked as a

Jr. Research Associate at the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI). At UCCI, Candra worked with various agencies around the country to disseminate evidence-based practices to ameliorate offender behavior in the reentry setting for adult and youth that were incarcerated or detained. Candra also managed two projects for statewide evaluation- the Community Corrections Act of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Youth Services Competitive RECLAIM Grant. During her time in Cincinnati, Candra volunteered at different organizations including Power Inspiring Progress as a volunteer tutor, Guiding Light Mentoring as a mentor, Mayor John Cranley's Young Professional Kitchen Cabinet, and Princess Ballet as a volunteer ballet instructor. In her spare time, Candra is a fashion blogger, avid reader and runner, and a self-proclaimed foodie. Candra is passionate about criminal justice reform in a holistic, multidisciplinary approach and is excited to welcome SPA students and to continue to advocate for the needs of the SPA community.

## Lauren Ricci, Vice President



**Lauren Ricci is a second year Master of Public Administration (MPA) candidate at the American University, School of Public Affairs, concentrating in Nonprofit Management. Currently, Lauren is Vice President of the School of Public Affairs Graduate Student Council. She currently works at the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) as a policy intern, advocating for federal policies that promote and preserve safe, affordable, and decent housing, which she views as critical tools for addressing poverty and achieving social justice.**

**Previously, Lauren worked as a Summer Associate at Opportunity@Work, a social enterprise with a mission to expand access to career opportunities so that all Americans can work, learn, and earn to their full potential. During her time there, she supported the development of an innovative, learner-centered financing model for sectoral workforce development programs, with an initial focus on the IT sector. Previously, she supported local community stakeholders in the implementation of federal grants as a Training and Technical Assistance Specialist with the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center. She began her career providing direct services to survivors of human trafficking as an advocate and a hotline supervisor with the National Human Trafficking Hotline. When Lauren isn't working or studying, you can find her exploring the city with her dog Nellie, a precocious and loveable 10-month-old mini goldendoodle. She grew up in North Kingstown, Rhode Island and holds a B.A. in International Affairs from The George Washington University Elliott School of Public Affairs.**

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### Katherine Sledge, Chief of Staff



**Katherine Sledge is a Tennessee native and graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. After graduating with her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Katherine worked at an environmental group where she provided administrative, technical, and logistical support for radiological projects across the country. Katherine is now pursuing her Master of Public Administration at American University with a concentration in Applied Politics: Women, Public Policy, and Political Leadership and is serving as the Chief of Staff for the School of Public Affairs Graduate Student Council. She has recently worked as**

**the Federal Advocacy Intern at the National Alliance to End Homelessness, where she coordinated state delegations in the Alliance's Capitol Hill Day. Katherine usually has multiple print and audiobooks in progress at any given time and unwinds with long walks and re-runs of The West Wing.**

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### Joshua Dixon, Finance Director



**Joshua D. Dixon (MPA'19) is a full-time government contractor for the U.S. Navy providing financial management support. He is pursuing a Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in public financial management. Joshua is the Financial Director of the School of Public Affairs (SPA) Graduate Student Council. Joshua graduated with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Business Administration from Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Fl. Joshua is naturally a public servant and has**

**taken pride in community youth outreach by serving as Chairman and Mentor of Manhood Rites of Passage (MROP) mentoring ministry for more than 8 years. He is an active member of the OLA Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc. where he has served as Chapter Treasurer and Financial Secretary. He was recently recognized by the Prince George's County Social Initiative Fund (PGCSIF) for his public service and presented the Prince George's Forty under Forty Award. Since starting classes part-time at SPA, he says the community has been welcoming and the courses stretched in ways he couldn't have imagined. Learning about statistics, data research, budgeting and economics has helped him be able to evaluate the impact of legislation and advocate for change. Joshua wants to work on housing and education policies that create equality among people of color and bridge the gap between young people to aspire to succeed but don't have the resources.**

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### **Annaliese Johnson, Communications Director**



**Annaliese Johnson is pursuing a Master's of Public Policy, with a concentration in social policy. She is the Director of Communications for the School of Public Affairs Graduate Student Council. Before joining the AU community, Annaliese graduated summa cum laude from Rutgers University, with a Bachelor's of Arts and Sciences in Cultural Anthropology and History. Her studies sparked an interest in US political and social movements, particularly past feminist and reproductive rights and justice movements. Her honors thesis on**

**New Jersey women's unique abortion access before and immediately following Roe v. Wade earned her the Margaret Atwood Judson Prize for best history honors thesis written by a woman. Upon graduating, Annaliese worked as a Community Organizer for NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland. Among her other duties at NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland, Annaliese managed the Emergency Contraceptive (EC) Access Project, which sought to improve access to over-the-counter EC products in public colleges and universities in Maryland. In this capacity, she implemented a state-wide survey of over 350 pharmacies to document barriers to over-the-counter EC products and inform lobbying efforts in the Maryland General Assembly. Her team's efforts paid off, with the University of Maryland, College Park implementing 24/7 EC access in their campus stores, though the bill she helped draft did not make it to the floor of the MD General Assembly. Outside of classes, Annaliese can be found running on the Capital Crescent Trail, baking tasty treats, or rewatching Parks and Rec episodes. Annaliese is passionate about advancing reproductive justice and freedom, and looks forward to advocating for SPA students and the AU community.**