



**Erika Dyer** graduated from the Women & Politics Institute's WeLead program in 2018 and now serves as a mentor to current class of WeLeaders. Erika said, "WeLead is a unique experience because it brings together a bipartisan group of ladies between the ages of 21 and 27 who, for the most part, are just beginning their career. It was refreshing to learn that despite political differences, many of us shared the same experiences and had a lot in common."

Of all her experiences in the program, Erika most values the lasting friendships she has made from WeLead, and she regularly keeps in touch with other women from her cohort. She credits these friendships with providing "a great sounding board when I need people to listen or give advice."

Her words of wisdom for the new class? "You can learn just as much from each other as the presenters. Go in with an open mind and attempt to make connections. Sometimes it might be difficult to see what you have in common with the person sitting next to you, but I can guarantee there is something you can bond over. Pro-tip: afraid to go to a networking event by yourself? Grab one of your classmates to go with you! "

Erika currently works as an Account Associate for Ketchum's Public & Corporate Affairs practice. She brings a wide range of experience in legislative affairs, strategic communications and event management, making her an invaluable asset to the practice.

Before her current position, Erika worked as a Communications Director and Legislative Aide to Springfield District Supervisor Patrick H. Herrity in Fairfax County, Virginia. Previously, she worked on numerous Republican campaigns throughout Virginia, notably Barbara Comstock for Congress and Jennifer Chronis for Dranesville Supervisor, among others.

On top of serving as Chairwoman of the Fairfax Area Young Republicans and Conservative Professionals Network of Northern Virginia, Erika represents the Young Republican Federation of Virginia on the Republican Party of Virginia's State Central Committee.

When she is not working, you can find her volunteering for the Junior League of Northern Virginia and serving on Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic's Community Leadership Council.