



Audrey Henson graduated from AU's Women & Politics WeLead program in 2015 and returns annually to guide WeLeaders and share her wisdom. Just this past September, Audrey helped lead the professional development session that focused on crafting an effective elevator pitch and she is volunteering her time to serve as a mentor for one of our current WeLead class members.

Prior to WeLead, Audrey “thought that working in politics and making an impact in your community could only exist in a partisan world. WeLead took me out of my bubble and showed me that women on opposite sides of the aisle could not only be friends, but we could achieve common goals.”

Her advice to the new class? She says, “like most things in life, opportunity is what you make of it. I would encourage this current class to create relationships with the speakers and classmates outside of the program. I graduated from the program several years ago and my classmates and I still support each other in our careers and beyond.”

At 26, Audrey founded [College to Congress](#), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working to create a more inclusive and effective Congress by empowering the next generation of public servants. She credits WeLead with her decision to start the organization saying the bipartisan training program, “heavily influenced my decision to make College to Congress an organization that has leadership from both sides of the aisle and empowers students of all political ideologies.”

In just two years, College to Congress has partnered with over 50 Members of Congress to provide 19 fully funded internships to high-achieving, low income students from diverse political backgrounds. Audrey has been featured in *The New York Times*, *CBS News*, *The Washington Business Journal*, *Politico* and more.