



Courtney Federico Alumni Spotlight

Courtney Federico, who graduated from AU's Women & Politics WeLead program last year, returned this fall to share her wisdom with the newest WeLead class. Courtney helped lead September's professional development session which focused on crafting an effective elevator pitch. She taught WeLeaders some of the skills that she used to land an exciting new job at EMILY's List. According to Courtney, the most valuable lesson she learned from her time in the program was also arguably the simplest lesson – how to set professional goals for herself.

She said that prior to her involvement in WeLead, “I thought I knew how to set goals for myself. As I sat in the Mary Graydon Center trying to brainstorm personal and professional goals, I realized that I hadn't set any concrete, achievable goals for myself in a long time. That day, I drafted a list of goals and found an accountability partner, my fellow WeLeader Tabatha. Together, she and I talked through each of my goals and how I was going to achieve them.”

Her advice to the new class? “Take advantage of every opportunity. WeLead is only what you make of it — talk to all of the speakers, meet everyone in your cohort, collect business cards and conduct coffee meetings. You worked hard and are fortunate enough to have this experience, so be thoughtful and strategic about what you want to gain from it, and get after it!”

Courtney is currently a Program Manager for EMILY's List's independent expenditure operation, WOMEN VOTE! In this role, she oversees independent expenditures in support of EMILY's List endorsed candidates. This is actually her second time working for EMILY's List. She served as the Assistant to the Executive Director five years ago.

Prior to rejoining EMILY's List, Courtney served as the Outreach Manager at the Combined Defense Project (CDP), an environmental coalition campaign created in the aftermath of Trump's election. She joined CDP after four years working for the Democratic National Committee, first as the Special Assistant to the CEO and then as the Deputy Director of the Office of Party Affairs and Delegate Selection (PADS). As the Deputy Director of PADS, Courtney helped manage the delegate selection process for the National Democratic Party and the party business conducted at the 2016 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

Courtney got her start in politics first as an intern and then as a field organizer on President Barack Obama's reelection campaign in 2012, where she fell in love with campaigns and community organizing. Since then, she has been committed to working for Democratic causes and organizations.

She currently resides in Washington, DC but grew up in a small town in Connecticut, where her family and her pug, Virgil, still live. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Boston University

in International Relations with a focus on the environment and sustainability in 2012. In addition to working in politics, she also sells handmade cards through her Etsy shop, Fedpress. When she is not working, you can find her running, boxing, reading, or spending time with friends.