

# UW–Madison La Follette School of Public Affairs

## 2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Robert M. La Follette  
School of Public Affairs  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

*Our mission is to train leaders and conduct research to inspire evidence-based policymaking and advance the public good.*

## Board of Visitors

### **Susan Webb Yackee**

Director and Professor, Public Affairs

### **Theola V. Carter (MA '91)**

Dane County Tamara D. Grigsby Office for Equity and Inclusion

### **Curt S. Culver**

MGIC Investment Corp., retired

### **Roger Ervin**

Putnam Partners

### **Jason Gerlach (MA '96)**

Sunrise Capital Partners

### **Michael Hamerlik**

WPS Health Solutions

### **Carolyn Hill (MA '96)**

MDRC

### **Leslie Ann Howard**

United Way of Dane County, retired

### **Herb Kohl**

U.S. Senate, retired

### **Bob Lang**

Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau

### **Terry Lierman (MA '71)**

Summit Global Ventures

### **David Lubar**

Lubar & Co.

### **Katharine C. Lyll**

UW System, retired

### **Theresa E. Mintle (MA '91)**

FYS Ventures

### **Luther Olsen**

Wisconsin Senate, retired

### **Chuck Pruitt**

ABC Direct

### **Jack C. Salzwedel**

American Family Insurance

### **Eric Schutt**

SHINE Medical Technologies

### **Daniel Speckhard (MA '82)**

Corus International

### **Michael Youngman (MA '82)**

Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., retired

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



It has been another productive and inspiring year at the La Follette School.

Despite starting their graduate program in the middle of a pandemic, the graduating class of 2022 has shown great resilience—adapting to uncertainty, supporting each other through difficult times, and going on to do great things in government, the nonprofit world, and the private sector.

Whether they are working as a public sector associate for Grant Thornton, as assistant district attorney for the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, or as a policy analyst for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, I am confident that this year's graduates will thoughtfully address the world's most pressing policy issues.

With the help of the Kohl Initiative, this year we launched a new Undergraduate Certificate in Health Policy, which has broadened opportunities for undergraduates to learn about public policy. All told, the La Follette School taught 760 undergraduate students this year.

Our school continued to serve as a convener of thoughtful debate during a time of unprecedented partisanship through several in-person and hybrid events, including two public La Follette Forums held during the 2021-2022 academic year. The results of our first-ever La Follette Policy Poll provided a revealing portrait of public opinion in a state that could affect the national balance of power this November.

I cannot wait to see what is next for the La Follette School.

*On, Wisconsin!*

**Susan Webb Yackee**

Director and Professor



## KOHL INITIATIVE

Funded by a generous \$10 million gift from former U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl, the Kohl Initiative demonstrates Sen. Kohl's deep commitment to public service and his ethos of civility in public debate and policymaking. The third year of the Kohl Initiative brought tremendous growth and allowed the La Follette School to expand its undergraduate educational opportunities. In spring 2022, the new Certificate in Health Policy was launched and the release of the La Follette Policy Poll helped to point elected leaders to problems that residents agree need solving, encouraging them to work together on policy solutions.



# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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**6<sup>TH</sup>**

**BEST SCHOOL FOR  
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

*Center for World University Rankings*

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**6<sup>TH</sup>**

**BEST GRADUATE SCHOOL  
FOR SOCIAL POLICY**

*U.S. News & World Report*

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OVER THE PAST THREE  
YEARS, AN AVERAGE  
OF **96% OF LA FOLLETTE  
SCHOOL GRADUATES  
HAVE FOUND EMPLOY-  
MENT IN THEIR FIELD  
WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF  
GRADUATION**

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**59%**

OF MPA/MIPA STUDENTS  
HELD **GRADUATE  
ASSISTANTSHIPS** OR  
RECEIVED A **FELLOWSHIP IN  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22**

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**150**

GRADUATES IN **3RD** CLASS  
OF UNDERGRADUATE  
CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC  
POLICY PROGRAM

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**133** DONORS TO **2022 DAY OF  
THE BADGER**



**\$47K+**

RAISED DURING DAY OF THE  
BADGER (INCREASE OF 91% FROM  
\$24,600 RAISED IN 2021)



**53** STUDENTS ENROLLED  
IN 1ST CLASS OF  
UNDERGRADUATE  
CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH  
POLICY PROGRAM



THROUGH ITS LEGISLATIVE  
OUTREACH, LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL  
STAFF MEMBERS ENGAGED  
WITH **103 OF WISCONSIN'S 132  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICES**

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**1,886**

PEOPLE ATTENDED **16 IN-PERSON** EVENTS  
DURING 2021-22

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**1,653**

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH **18 VIRTUAL**  
EVENTS DURING 2021-22

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**30,000+** POST-EVENT  
YOUTUBE VIEWS



Cover photos clockwise from top left: Jamelle Bouie of the New York Times speaks at the 2022 La Follette Forum; 2022 Forum; Robert M. La Follette; David Brooks of the New York Times speaks with Susan Webb Yackee at an October 2021 event; 2022 MPA and MIPA graduates

## La Follette School Student Association Officers, 2022–23

**Amelia Wagner**  
President

**Adam Riley**  
Treasurer

**Liliana Keomanivong Teniente**  
Secretary

**Gabriel Terrell**  
Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator

**Jacob Boelter**  
Community Service and Outreach Coordinator

**Stephanie Mertens**  
Social Coordinator

**Natalia Borowska**  
Graduation Coordinator

**Elizabeth Johnson**  
Fundraising Coordinator

## 2022 ENTERING COHORT

The La Follette School offers master's degrees in domestic and international public affairs as well as combined degrees and certificate programs in several fields of study. The Accelerated Program allows select undergraduate students to jump-start their graduate studies.

### STUDENTS FROM 12 STATES AND 8 COUNTRIES



# 53

INCOMING MASTER'S  
PROGRAM ENROLLMENTS

**40** MASTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
(MPA)

**13** MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MIPA)

**17** STUDENTS IN DUAL, DOUBLE, OR GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

**7** ACCELERATED STUDENTS

**28%** OF INCOMING COHORT OF GRADUATE STUDENTS ARE FROM ARE  
UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS



### Manpreet Kaur, MPA:

"I was drawn to the prestige of UW–Madison and the La Follette School. I was also drawn to UW–Madison because of my respect for the history of social change and challenge driven by students and select faculty."



### Liliana Teniente, MPA:

"As a true believer in the Wisconsin Idea, I have always sought to take my own learning beyond the boundaries of this campus, help others, and create positive change."



### Jean Vilbert, MIPA, MA:

"When I decided I wanted to return to grad school, I drafted an 'impossible' mixture of things I would like to pursue – deep theoretical knowledge and practical groundwork in public affairs, political science, economics, and statistics. La Follette offers all of this."



### Gabriel Stowe Terrell, MPA:

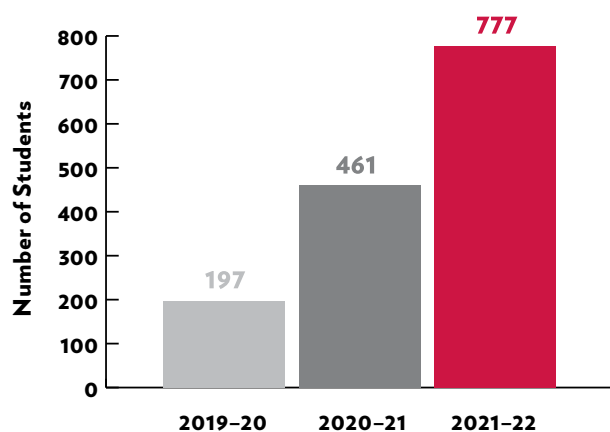
"I want to continue to help citizens secure access to high quality and affordable employment, housing, financial security, transportation, and education. I am so grateful to have an opportunity to help individuals secure greater access to these foundations of a good life here in Wisconsin, the state that has provided me so much already."

# UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM GROWTH

For the first 35 years of its existence, the La Follette School offered only graduate-level courses. The Kohl Initiative fueled the school's expansion into undergraduate programming in response to student interest in public service and policymaking. The La Follette School now offers two undergraduate certificates (which are like minors at other schools): the Certificate in Public Policy and the Certificate in Health Policy.

The new Certificate in Health Policy, which launched in spring 2022, has garnered interest among pre-health professional students and students from a range of other majors.

TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE ENROLLMENT



"Students find that coursework in the certificate programs grows their understanding of why policy analysis can play such a powerful role in decision making. The undergraduate courses train students to define problems, analyze issues, and frame recommendations. They then apply these lessons through internships, which often make them highly competitive for employment or slots in selective graduate programs."

**Mary Davis Michaud**  
Undergraduate Advisor and Faculty Associate



"Through the Health Policy Certificate, I had the opportunity to gain experience with Covering Wisconsin (a nonprofit that connects Wisconsin residents with health insurance) and gained exposure to the fascinating world of public policy. As I look forward, it was through this experience that I found a passion for health literacy and how we can harness the power of video and health material design to make health-related decisions approachable and easier to understand."

**Hunter Evenson**  
Undergraduate Certificate in Health Policy student

## Undergraduate Certificates in Public Policy and Health Policy

**IN THE THREE YEARS SINCE LAUNCHING THE SCHOOL'S FIRST UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE, WE HAVE:**

Increased the number of enrolled students **five-fold**

Added a new Certificate in Health Policy, attracting **53** students to the first cohort

**Tripled** the number of students taking undergraduate public affairs courses

Increased the number of undergraduate courses offered from **2 to 20**

### CERTIFICATE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT:

**280** students in 2022-23 (234 in Public Policy, 51 in Health Policy, 5 in both)

**200** students in 2021-22

**165** students in 2020-21

### CERTIFICATE PROGRAM GRADUATES:

**93** in 2021-22

**78** in 2020-21

## NOTABLE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

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**Ciboney Reglos (BS, CiHPx'23)** will be joining the UW–Madison Social Justice Hub as the operations intern for the 2022–2023 academic year. She will assist with educational curriculum and work to build and strengthen relationships with student organizations and stakeholders across campus that share an interest and passion for social justice. Reglos is currently a Tayo summer fellow through the Filipino Young Leaders Program, where she curates relevant information to help Filipino Americans safeguard their health, well-being, and economic security during the pandemic and conducts research related to Covid-19. She was drawn to the Certificate in Health Policy because of her interest in gaining perspectives on research, government, and clinical sectors to understand exactly how policy is shaped and how it affects individuals.

“Working in public health and with Filipino populations is the marriage of my two greatest passions, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to use my own cultural knowledge to help out my own community,” says Reglos.

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**Travis Austin (BA, CiPPx'23)** was elected to the Town of Berry Board in April. As a member of the town board, he was also appointed by the town chair to the Plan Commission, which oversees zoning and other land use permit applications, and was appointed town representative on the Black Earth fire district.

Austin was drawn to the Certificate in Public Policy because of his interest in copyright law in the music industry. He is a political science major and is also pursuing a Certificate in Environmental Studies. Austin is a Kohl Scholarship recipient for 2022. Outside of his studies, Austin plays the trumpet for the UW–Madison marching band and volunteers with the American Legion Badger Boys State program.

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**Yahvi Mahendra (BA, CiHP '22)** graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology and health promotion and health equity and completed Certificates in Health Policy, Global Health, and Leadership. She was one of the first three students to complete the new Certificate in Health Policy. As the senior class diversity, equity, and inclusion director, Mahendra introduced the keynote speaker, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, during the 2022 UW–Madison commencement ceremony.

Following graduation, Mahendra secured a position as a program administrator for the American Medical Association. “Because of my health policy coursework, I felt more confident in critically evaluating health policies within my work given the examples I’ve been presented in class, and my health policy coursework allowed me to be more knowledgeable in the interview process as well,” says Mahendra.



## NOTABLE GRADUATE STUDENTS

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**Ethan Dickler (MPAx'23)** served as a generations fellow for the Breakthrough Institute in Berkeley, California this summer. The program includes a boot camp in modern environmental policy, a distinguished speaker series, and guided research. His focus was on sustainable aquaculture practices and food development.

Dickler developed an interest in policy while serving as a freshman representative for the La Crosse Student Association while pursuing his undergraduate degree. His policy interests include environmental and social policy. Dickler is also a graduate representative for the Associated Students of Madison for the 2022-2023 academic year, where he serves on the Nominations, Legislative Affairs, and Student Activity Center Governing Board Committees.

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**Migena Vula (JD-MPAx'25)** completed an internship this summer in the Prime Minister's Office in Kosovo, where she worked with other senior officers for policy coordination to assist the Ministries with writing and reviewing policy memos. She worked closely with the Prime Minister's chief of staff to ensure the government's agenda is being met and even had the chance to sit in on a few meetings with the Prime Minister.

After graduation, Vula hopes to work as a public servant or official, so she was eager to learn more about working in government through this internship and be able to work in her home country again. Having grown up in a disputed territory, she pursued her MPA to better understand the role of public institutions in solving large-scale problems and empowering underserved populations. While on campus, Vula serves as a project assistant for WPS Health Solutions, where she assists the senior vice president of government relations in his work with state and federal agencies.

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**Adam Riley (MIPAx'23)** was selected as one of eight U.S. students and young professionals for the prestigious U.S. Congress – Republic of Korea National Assembly Exchange Program. The program, which takes place in Washington, D.C. and Seoul, South Korea, is designed to broaden the perspectives of Korean and American young people on the legislative process; the history of U.S. – Korean relations; and current economic, political, and security aspects of the bilateral relationship by giving participants firsthand experience of each other's people and culture.

Riley is in the accelerated MIPA program and is interested in transportation policy, particularly high-speed rail. He acts as treasurer of the La Follette School Student Association (LSSA). Riley is also the Wisconsin 4-H international programs coordinator within the UW–Madison Division of Extension, where he develops and facilitates educational programs focused on the skills of global citizenship and supports summer inbound and outbound youth exchanges with countries including South Korea, Japan, Mexico, Norway, and Costa Rica.

## 2021–2022 Notable News Media Mentions



Wall Street Journal: Greg Nemet on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report recommendations, 4/4/22



ABC News: Morgan Edwards on how young people can make effective change in the climate crisis, 1/22/22



Marketplace: Menzie Chinn on the effect of slowing inflation on prices, 5/10/22



NBC 15: Jon Pevehouse on boycotting Russian products in response to the war in Ukraine, 3/3/22

## EXPANDING OUTREACH

Since its inception in 1983, the La Follette School has embraced the Wisconsin Idea and the university's "beneficent influence" across the state. The Kohl Initiative has allowed the school to broaden the reach of its faculty's research, and to serve as a convener on our country's most pressing challenges. During 2021-22, faculty shared their expertise via in-person and virtual events including two La Follette Policy Forums, media interviews, and partnerships with on- and off-campus groups.

### Journalist in Residence, Fall 2021

Politics & Policy

David Brooks, New York Times columnist

### Policymaker in Residence, Fall 2021

Surveillance Capitalism in the Digital Age

Jon Leibowitz, former chair of the Federal Trade Commission

### Hilldale-Offner Lecture, Spring 2022

The Great Divide: Education, Despair & Death

Anne Case, author of Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism

### Journalist in Residence, Spring 2022

A Conversation with David Haynes of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (virtual event)

Catherine Rampell, Washington Post columnist

### 40th Family Impact Seminar, Spring 2022

Rebuilding Wisconsin's Child Care Infrastructure

Attendees: 92, including 18 legislators, 25 aides, and 10 state agency representatives



Inaugural Policymaker in Residence Jon Leibowitz visits with La Follette students





During his visit, David Brooks spoke with MPA student Carte'cia Lawrence (left) and Susan Webb Yackee (center), Director of the La Follette School, at a meeting with community leaders. Brooks' public talk attracted 732 in-person attendees, 550 people via livestream, and 27,500+ post-event YouTube views (watch here: [go.wisc.edu/brooks](https://go.wisc.edu/brooks)).



Eighty-seven people attended Anne Case's April 2022 talk in person, with 115 attending via livestream and 650+ post-event views.



On May 2, 2022, Washington Post columnist Catherine Rampell discussed her data-driven coverage of economics, public policy, immigration, and politics with Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Ideas Lab editor David Haynes during a virtual event.

## 2021–2022 Notable News Media Mentions



Washington Post: Tim Smeeding on Biden's child tax credit and its impact on poverty and workers, 11/8/21



Washington Post Monkey Cage: Mark Copelovitch on why the global economy runs on dollars, 6/2/22



WISN, UpFront: Michael Collins discusses the La Follette Policy Poll, 1/9/22



The Hill: Susan Webb Yackee on the need for reform in federal guidance processes, 11/16/21

## FORUM FACTS

2021

26

total speakers including Katharine Wilkinson, author and co-founder of the All We Can Save Project, and Kathryn Huff, assistant secretary and principal deputy assistant secretary for the Office of Nuclear Energy

122

in-person attendees

277 virtual attendees (including registrants from 17 states, 33 Wisconsin counties, 5 countries)

506 post-event views

## LA FOLLETTE POLICY FORUMS

The school's recent expansion has allowed La Follette to serve as a convener of thoughtful debate and evidence-based research for moving our country forward during a time of unprecedented partisanship. With funding from the Kohl Initiative, during the 2021–2022 year the La Follette School facilitated two Forums which gathered researchers, policymakers, and community leaders together for engaging conversations about innovative solutions to some of the most challenging policy issues.

### La Follette Forum 2021: Climate Policy

Co-chairs: Gregory Nemet, Professor, La Follette School of Public Affairs; Morgan Edwards, Assistant Professor, La Follette School of Public Affairs

October 6, 2021



2021 Climate Policy Forum panel on Communication & Youth Mobilization



Keynote speaker Kathryn Huff, principal deputy assistant secretary for the Office of Nuclear Energy, at the Climate Policy Forum reception



## La Follette Forum 2022: American Power, Prosperity & Democracy

Chair: Mark Copelovitch, Professor, La Follette School of Public Affairs

May 4, 2022



Photos: 2022 La Follette Forum panel on American Democracy; La Follette Professor Menzie Chinn and Washington Post columnist Catherine Rampell participate in the American Prosperity panel; Sen. Janet Bewley asks a question of the panel

## FORUM FACTS

2022

30

total speakers including keynotes from Washington Post columnist Catherine Rampell, Peterson Institute for International Economics president Adam Posen, Stanford University Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies center fellow Oriana Skylar Mastro, Centre for International Governance Innovation senior fellow Paul Blustein, New York Times columnist Jamelle Bouie, and Harvard University professor Daniel Ziblatt

226

in-person attendees (from 13 states, 19 Wisconsin counties, and 3 countries—Germany, South Africa, India)

178 virtual attendees

697 post-event views



The Kohl Competition supports non-partisan research that policymakers can use to make evidence-based decisions about how to solve the big problems we face as a society. The awards are intended to expand the influence of La Follette School faculty research and to increase the research's impact through targeted outreach.



“These influential projects focus on advancing the public good, giving La Follette School researchers the opportunity to share their work with policymakers, practitioners, and anyone devoted to solving the pressing problems facing our society.”

**Curt Culver, La Follette School Board of Visitors member**



**7**

YEARS



**31**

AWARDS



**26\***

STUDENTS



**32**

FACULTY

\*As project assistants, the 26 students received tuition remission, a stipend, and health insurance. These positions—and the student funding provided—allow the La Follette School to attract the best and brightest graduate students.

# CREATING INFLUENTIAL RESEARCH

## 2022 Kohl Competition Awards



Edwards, Fletcher, and Durrance

### Mapping Inequities in Building Energy Transitions

Assistant Professor Morgan Edwards is using data from Zillow.com on everything related to American homes to analyze the relationship between heat pumps—a low-carbon home-heating technology—and demographic characteristics like race, ethnicity, and income. She plans to share her results with community groups and policymakers to inform them about how to make heat pumps more available and appealing to Wisconsin households.

### Why is Wisconsin an Outlier in Racial Inequality?

Professor Jason Fletcher is reexamining data that suggests that Wisconsin has some of the country's largest racial inequalities in incarceration, education, and health outcomes. His research will consider the extent to which inequalities are concentrated in urban versus rural areas of the state. He is also drawing on research showing that where people are born, not just where they reside, has a huge effect on how their lives turn out.

### New Insights for the Opioid Crisis

Associate Professor Christine Durrance is drawing on data, recently released by court order, that tracks all U.S. opioid shipments from manufacturers to the hospitals, pharmacies and practitioners who dispense them. Using this data to calculate rates of inappropriate opioid prescribing will allow Durrance to draw conclusions about the effects of these prescriptions on overdose mortality, neonatal health, and the well-being of families.

### Trade Wars and Institutional Gridlock

Associate Professor Tana Johnson is zeroing in on negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO), focusing on how rich countries demand reciprocal reductions in trade barriers, while poor countries argue for one-way redistributions of resources and technology to benefit their populations. Her goal is to determine if global shocks like the 2008 financial crisis exacerbated signs of gridlock, causing governments to double down on their demands.

## CLIENT-BASED PROJECTS

In the capstone workshops for the La Follette School master's degree programs, students gain policy analysis experience by collaborating with real-world clients. Working in teams, they produce research-based, analytical, evaluative, and prescriptive reports for clients in the public, non-governmental, and private sectors that range from municipal government offices to international development organizations. Each report is the equivalent of the thesis for a master's degree from the La Follette School of Public Affairs.

Many alumni say work on these client-based projects has helped them find public policy employment. At the same time, the information-packed reports allow clients to move ahead with problem-solving projects that might otherwise not be possible amid tight budgets and other challenges.

In the 2021–2022 academic year, workshop students focused on projects ranging from identifying and analyzing successful mental health services in Wisconsin schools, to recommending land-use policies to enhance housing development, to bringing electricity to health facilities in Sub-Saharan Africa.



“Learning policy analysis skills in class is important, but there’s nothing like the experiential learning students gain by doing real-world policy analysis. Our graduate students take this work very seriously, determined to produce reports that can help our partner organizations make important decisions about projects affecting people in Wisconsin, the nation, and the world. This is a great example of outreach inspired by the Wisconsin Idea, UW–Madison’s guiding philosophy.”

**Michael Collins, La Follette School Professor**



“My team and I were so pleased with the report on improving Wisconsin’s residential building code. It will be an invaluable resource for several related projects and initiatives, including our new Sustainable Building Council, so the timing could not be better. The report also generated insights we were not expecting, including ways our agency could assist efforts to expand access to affordable and workforce housing. We anticipate using this report as the foundation for future initiatives within our agency and across the administration. We could not have generated a resource like this without the La Follette School and UW–Madison.”

**Jennifer Garrett, Assistant Deputy Secretary,  
Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional  
Services**

## Wisconsin Idea



One of the longest and deepest traditions surrounding the University of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Idea signifies a general principle: that education should influence people’s lives beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

Today, more than ever, faculty, students, and staff at the La Follette School practice the Wisconsin Idea across the state and around the world through research, teaching, and outreach. The school’s multidisciplinary emphasis on service and scholarship allows it to take on problems of public policy and governance such as the design and management of social welfare programs, international currency and trade, and public management and finance.



In just the past **10 years**, La Follette students have collaborated on reports for **100 client-based projects**—all at no cost to clients other than their time. A public policy consulting firm would charge approximately \$25,000 for similar reports. Multiplied by 100 projects, that’s **\$2.5 million** in consulting services provided by La Follette School master’s students to local, state, national and international organizations in 10 years.

# LA FOLLETTE POLICY POLL

An example of the Wisconsin Idea in action, the La Follette Policy Poll pointed elected leaders to problems that residents agree need solving, encouraging them to work together on policy solutions. Made possible by the Kohl Initiative and released in January, the poll asked 5,000 state residents about the issues that matter to them most and the problems they most want solved.

The results paint a revealing portrait of public opinion in a state that could affect the national balance of power this November. On issues such as government regulation, residents divide along party lines, but they are generally in agreement on healthcare and retirement savings. Younger respondents consistently rank climate change, healthcare, and income and wealth distribution as bigger problems than older respondents.

“The poll helps us understand both consensus and divisions in our state, as well as shedding light on the topics that the political parties and candidates ought to be talking about most during 2022.”

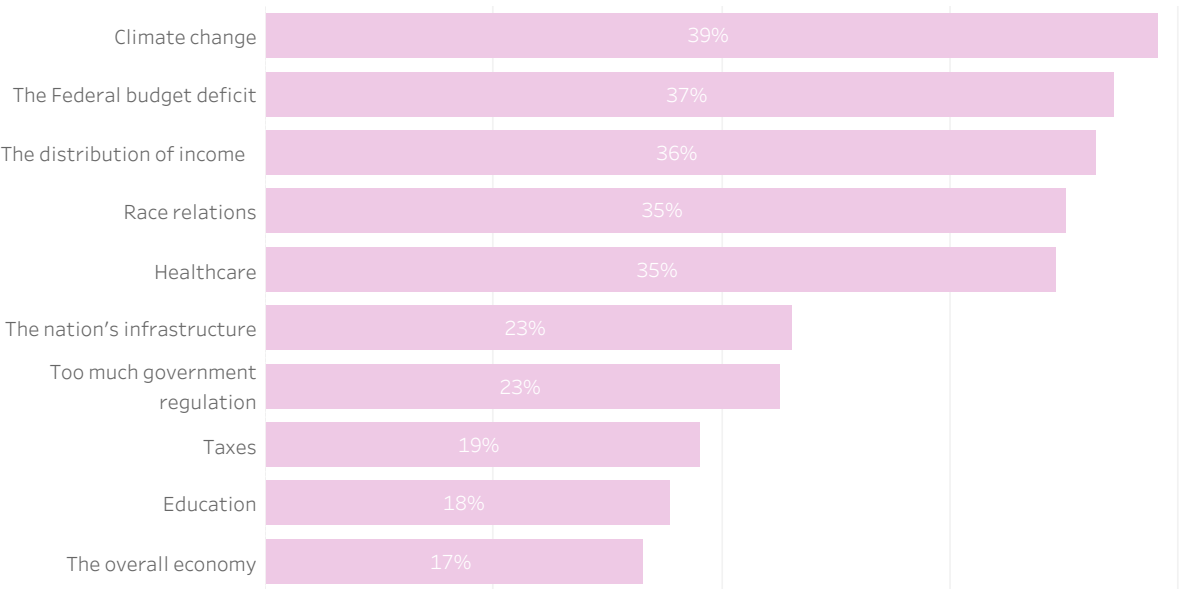
**Susan Webb Yackee, La Follette School Director and Professor**



“Policies to invest in renewable energy and reduce pollution are particularly popular. Seventy percent of Wisconsinites support doubling the amount of electricity coming from renewables and 76% support taxing industries to remove industrial pollution. These policies create benefits beyond climate change, including creating renewable energy jobs and reducing emissions of air pollutants that harm human health.”

**Morgan Edwards, La Follette School Assistant Professor**

## Percentage of Wisconsinites who think these issues are extremely big problems



Note: These estimates are accurate within +/- 2.5% at a confidence level of 95%. Respondents who skipped a question and did not give a response (20 on average) are not shown.  
Question: How much of a problem are each of the following issues facing the country today?



## PARTNERSHIPS



In June, the La Follette School partnered with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and Wisconsin Public Radio to launch the Wisconsin Main Street Agenda project, which will focus news coverage on public policy issues in the months leading up to the November elections.

As part of the project, the partnership has released a survey and La Follette School faculty will participate in four town halls throughout the state to find out what citizens want candidates to talk about as they compete for votes this fall.

"Our students, from widely diverse backgrounds, come together to learn how to solve problems affecting our entire country—poverty; inflation; the pandemic and its many related health care issues; and the need for clean water, a market-driven economy, and equality for all," says La Follette School Director and Professor Susan Webb Yackee.

The project was inspired by the La Follette Policy Poll, which showed that Wisconsin voters are worried about difficult issues for which there is no simple solution—issues like education, health care, and race relations. These issues require nuanced policy solutions, and La Follette School research shows that Wisconsinites recognize these complexities.



## New Partnerships

Over the past year, the La Follette School has expanded its partnerships with the media and other organizations to raise the profile of the school and extend the impact of the Kohl Initiative.

**milwaukee  
journal sentinel**



**THE CAP TIMES**

## Where 2022 graduates are working

### STATE GOVERNMENT

Office of the Wisconsin Governor

University of Wisconsin System

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

Wisconsin Legislative Audit and Fiscal Bureaus

Wisconsin State Assembly

Wisconsin State Departments: Children and Families; Corrections; Health Services; Natural Resources; Workforce Development

Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center

### PRIVATE SECTOR

Cornerstone Research

Grant Thornton

QuestionPro

Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City of La Crosse

City of Madison

Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change

Madison Police Department

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Government Accountability Office (GAO)

### NONPROFIT/EDUCATION

American Institutes for Research

Burke Museum at the University of Washington

Center for the Study of the American Constitution

Houston Audubon Society

Indianapolis Hunger Network

Policy Center at Washington University

The Mary Amelia Center for Women's Health Equity Research

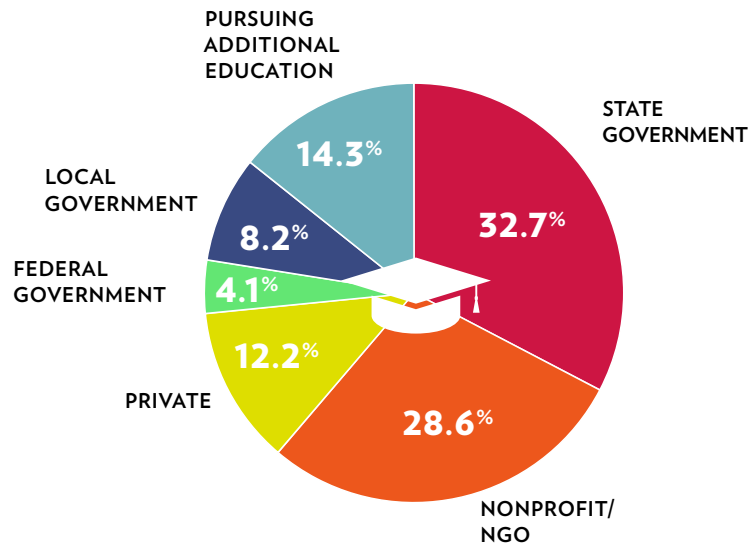
Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership

UW-Madison Center for Health Disparities Research

UW-Madison Population Health Institute

## RECENT GRADUATES

Over the past three years, an average of 96.3% of La Follette School MPA and MIPA graduates have found employment in their field within 6 months of graduation.



*Postgraduation career statistics, Class of 2022*

## 2022 Graduation Awards

**Matthew Voss (MPA)** — Director's Achievement Award for his outstanding academic record and professionalism as a La Follette School student

**Indu Kilaru (MPA)** — Piore Prize for Best Paper in Science and Public Policy

**Liz Duffie (MPA)** — Penniman Prize for the best paper demonstrating the school's writing and analytic tools



"Though many of us are so different, we're all passionate about making this world a more thoughtful, equitable place, and that's what makes us special," said student speaker Carte'cia Lawrence (MPA '22) during the 2022 Commencement ceremony for MPA and MIPA graduates.



# ALUMNI CONNECTIONS



## Alumni & Friends Reception

In April 2022, the La Follette School held its first in-person alumni and friends reception since 2020 in Madison. The inaugural Alumni of Distinction Award was presented to alum Bill Cosh for his outstanding commitment to La Follette students via mentorship.

Alumni reception attendees spanned 46 years – from the Class of 1976 (when the La Follette School's predecessor the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Administration was in place) to the Class of 2022.



## Day of the Badger

This spring, the La Follette School participated in Day of the Badger, UW–Madison's two-day annual philanthropic event. With the help of alumni and our La Follette School community, we raised over \$47,000 to support students from groups underrepresented in higher education. A generous \$20,000 challenge from Michael (MA '82) and JoAnn Youngman and Terry Lierman (MA '71) rallied fellow alumni and donors to support students.



**Lauren Jorgensen (MPA '20)** was recently promoted to senior budget and policy analyst for the Colorado Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting as recognition for the work she did coordinating two major initiatives in the Governor's Budget.



**Atiya Siddiqi (MIPA '18)** was the analyst-in-charge for a U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report about long COVID, which was highlighted in the Washington Post, the New York Times, and Rolling Stone.



**Rob Cramer (MA '92)** was named Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration at UW–Madison.



**Ken Meyer (MA '91)** recently started as commissioner of the City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP).



## Students and alumni in action



**Kao Lee Yang (MPA, N&PPx'24)** was named a 2022 Morgridge Fellow. The program supports teaching, research, and scholarly activities that are performed in equitable, mutually beneficial collaboration with communities.



**Colin Higgins (MPA '16)** is a presidential appointee to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, where he has served as policy advisor to Deputy Secretary Todman since March. He supports various programs including expanding rental assistance and tackling homelessness, better responding to natural disasters for vulnerable populations, and producing more affordable housing and increasing fair access to neighborhoods.



**Jess Rutstein (MPA '20)** presented The Evolution & Impact of Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) with Jonelle Brom at the annual Feeding Wisconsin Hunger and Health Summit in April. Rutstein is a FoodShare program and policy analyst with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS).

## ELEVATING EQUITY

This year, our graduate students continued their work to address ways the La Follette School can improve diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within our school, on campus, and in society.



**Indu Kilaru, (MPA '22)**



**Gabriel Terrell, MPA**

As DEI coordinators for the La Follette School Student Association (LSSA), Indu Kilaru (MPA '22) and current MPA student Gabriel Terrell provided leadership around advancing DEI.

LSSA also launched a new DEI Student Advisory Committee as a platform for La Follette students to advocate for DEI issues. Spearheaded by Terrell, the advisory committee works on important advocacy and outreach activities that create an inclusive and vibrant collective future.

The La Follette School continued its Elevating Equity in Policymaking series, which was launched in 2020 to highlight the wide-ranging careers and experiences of people working to promote equity in the policy world. In April, students gathered in person and virtually to discuss pressing health equity issues with La Follette School alum Shireen Ohadi-hamadani (MPA '20), who is the communications strategist for the Office of Health Equity located within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The series will continue in fall 2022.



“The La Follette School is committed to expanding its DEI initiatives at all levels, including within the school itself, so we can continue to prioritize inclusivity in our curriculum and in how we train policy leaders. Today’s pressing policy issues require inclusive solutions that address the needs of all individuals rather than the needs of a select minority. If we take seriously the need for a more equitable society, then we need to prioritize elevating equity in our own backyard.”

**Lauren Schmitz, Assistant Professor of Public Affairs**



“As a public policy program, engaging with people from different backgrounds and serving diverse populations is key to the work we do. I am so grateful to our dedicated La Follette School students, who have taken a lead in researching concrete ways to improve our community.”

**Susan Webb Yackee, La Follette School Director and Professor**

## LOOKING AHEAD



### Politics & Policy with Nate Silver

Oct. 26, 2022



### Policymaker in Residence, Former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Paul Ryan

Feb. 22, 2023

## La Follette Forum – Trust in Government

March 1, 2023



The La Follette School's fourth annual policy Forum, supported by the Kohl Initiative, will bring together researchers, policymakers, and community leaders Wednesday, March 1. La Follette School Professor **Manny Teodoro**, author of "The Profits of Distrust: Citizen-Consumers, Drinking Water, and the Crisis of Confidence in the American Government," chairs the day-long conference. Attendees may participate in person at the Monona Terrace or online.



La Follette School Professor Geoffrey Wallace (left) poses by a bust of Robert La Follette with Emeritus Professor Robert Haveman (right). The La Follette community mourns the loss of two beloved professors: Haveman passed away in June of 2022 and Wallace passed away in July of 2022.



## THANK YOU!

... for providing financial support for scholarships, research, and professional development  
... for participating on policy, career, and other panel discussions  
... for assisting students with fellowships and employment applications  
... for serving as mentors, mock interviewers, and networking partners

## TO DONATE

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- Call 800-442-6162
- Email [alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu](mailto:alumni@lafollette.wisc.edu)

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## Faculty

**Susan Webb Yackee**

Director and Professor of Public Affairs

**Mariel Barnes**

Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

**Menzie Chinn**

Professor of Public Affairs and Economics

**J. Michael Collins**

Professor of Public Affairs and Human Ecology

**Mark Copelovitch**

Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science

**Christine Durrance**

Associate Professor of Public Affairs

**Morgan Edwards**

Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

**Jason Fletcher**

Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor of Public Affairs and Sociology

**Denia Garcia**

Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

**Sarah Halpern-Meekin**

Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies; Public Affairs

**Lindsay Jacobs**

Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

**Tana Johnson**

Associate Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science

**Reed Lei**

Assistant Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science

**Ross Milton**

Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

**Gregory Nemet**

Professor of Public Affairs

**Jon Pevehouse**

Professor of Political Science and Public Affairs

**Lauren Schmitz**

Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

**Timothy Smeeding**

Lee Rainwater Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs and Economics

**Manuel Teodoro**

Associate Professor of Public Affairs

**Yang Wang**

Associate Professor of Public Affairs

**David Weimer**

Edwin E. Witte Professor of Political Economy

**Barbara Wolfe**

Richard A. Easterlin Professor of Economics, Population Health Sciences, and Public Affairs

## Welcoming Héctor Pifarré Arolas



Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Héctor Pifarré Arolas joins the La Follette School in Fall 2022. His research focuses on social and health policy. He is interested in the determinants and measurement of health and mortality inequality, fertility, and the implications of and for population age structures. He is also evaluating the direct and indirect impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on health outcomes and healthcare access. Previously, he served as research director at the Centre for Research in Health Economics in Universitat Pompeu Fabra.



**Robert M. La Follette**  
**School of Public Affairs**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON