



TEXAS LBJ School

The University of Texas at Austin

Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs

2021 Retired State Employee Association Fellows



Alaina Ruth Turnquist
Master of Public Affairs
(Candidate)

Alaina is a Masters of Public Affairs student who is pursuing a certificate in state and local finance. She is passionate about de-mystifying financial terminology and increasing accessibility of the important decisions that hide behind big words. She recently finished working in the 87th Legislature where she got to work on family leave plans for state employees and see first hand the dedication of public servants across state agencies. Originally from Minnesota, the LBJ School has provided a unique opportunity to see a different state government at work.



Ardian Shaholli
Master of Public Affairs
(Candidate)

After years of working at the state legislature and multiple non-profits, Ardian wanted to acquire more technical knowledge that could help advance his passions. The LBJ School provides a perfect combination of theoretical and applied learning. Whereas most policy schools either focus exclusively on public policy or administration – LBJ ensures that both are adequately incorporated into a student’s learning experience. Ardian is currently pursuing a state and local finance certificate. Ultimately, he plans to work for a research-oriented, non-partisan agency like the Legislative Budget Board. He greatly appreciates RSEA’s commitment to ensuring he achieves his academic and professional goals.



Krista Gelhausen
Master of Public Affairs
(Candidate)

Krista Gehlhausen is a rising 2nd year MPAff and dual degree with the Community & Regional Planning Program. She selected the LBJ school because of its proximity to the state Capitol, stellar reputation, and the ability to study both policy & planning together. She is interested in food and housing policy, with experience working in the Texas Legislature, the Governor's Office, and with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Ultimately, she would love to work for the General Land Office, Texas Department of Agriculture, or the TDHCA. She would like to thank everyone who made this opportunity possible.



Rachel Osterloh
Master of Public Affairs
(Candidate)

Rachel Osterloh is from Austin, Texas. After receiving her undergraduate degree in Government from UT Austin and spending several years in higher education advocacy, Rachel started her journey as a MPAff student at The LBJ School of Public Affairs. She has professional experience in advocacy, campaigns, and with the Texas Legislature. With her LBJ education, Rachel will be ready to advance public policy in support of Texas families. She's very grateful to receive support from the Retired State Employees Association in pursuit of her graduate degree.