

THANK YOU!

To Our Graduating Research Assistants

Sarah Dennis **Marianna Coelho Uchoa** **Gabrielle Teachey** **Charlotte Cox**



I started working for the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) in March of 2023. My interests lie in social policy, economics, and community and economic development in addition to my experience and education in political economy and the care economy. Since my time here at CCED, I have honed and developed skills that will prepare me for future employment opportunities.

As I graduate in the spring with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Relations & Policy with minors in Political Economy and Educational Studies, I am looking to pursue a career in research, policy, and economic development. With my rigorous liberal arts education from the James Madison College at MSU, my professional experiences combined with my passion for economics and public policy, I am excited for the opportunity to continue to assist underserved communities in Michigan.

I would like to thank the MSU CCED for the wonderful and enriching experiences it has provided me as well as my supervisor, Jenan Jondy, for her exceptional guidance and mentorship throughout my time at the center.

As a student of International Relations and Environmental and Sustainability Studies, I get to learn about international affairs, global governance, cultural studies, and sustainable initiatives done at the national and international levels. The skills I developed in and outside of class allowed me to feel prepared to work as a Research Assistant at the Center for Community & Economic Development.

Working at the Center has prepared me for a career in development while practicing my writing, research, and analysis skills in the areas of policy, economic development, and sustainability.

After graduating from MSU in the spring semester of 2024, I will be pursuing my Master's Degree in Environment and Sustainability focusing on Environmental Policy at the University of Michigan. I want to address the issue of climate change which is the area I am most interested in. My focus, specifically, is resiliency response to climate change injustices and how this affects the population's public health.



During my time at the Center for Community and Economic Development, I have learned many ways community development financial institutions (CDFIs) can help with economic development along with community benefits and presented this project at the Diversity Research Showcase. I have also helped with the formatting and editing of the Fall'23 Newsletter.

Currently, I am working on a briefing that focuses on community benefit plans and agreements. This briefing is being created to allow readers to have a better understanding of what community benefit plans and agreements are and the reasons as to why they are important.

I will be graduating from Michigan State University with my Bachelor of Arts in Information Science and Criminal Justice with a concentration in Media and Information and a minor in Security Management this spring. Following, I plan to further my education by enrolling into a graduate program focused on information systems.



In the last two years at the Center for Community & Economic Development working with the REI (Regional Economic Innovation) team, I not only gained knowledge regarding projects that help promote equity and innovation in communities, but also had the opportunity to learn from fellow research assistants and form meaningful connections. This May I'll have earned my Bachelor of Arts in International Relations with a minor in Spanish.

Throughout my undergrad degree, I also was an undergrad learning assistant for MTH101 and a childcare provider at a local gym. Moving forward the future is somewhat unknown. I hope to stay in the research realm and move to D.C in pursuit of a job with a private company researching policy. Far down the road, I see myself in the State Department as a foreign service officer.

However, before entering the workforce, I'd like to travel and make it back to Budapest. This is where I spent the '23 spring semester on study abroad. Lastly, I'd like to thank my fellow research assistants and supervisors for being a system of support and guidance during my time at MSU. I'm grateful to be surrounded by ambitious and like-minded individuals.