

# Justin D. Gardner

justindesgardner@gmail.com | H: (269) 993-5399

## EDUCATION:

**Georgetown University** | Washington D.C.

May 2019

Master with Honors in Public Policy, Focus: Higher Education

- Award: Golden Bulldog Award for Community and Social Impact.
- Thesis: "The System Never Loved Us: Exploring and Reforming the Education System for Disadvantaged Youth."
- Study Abroad: **Trinity College of Dublin**, Dublin, Ireland. 2018

**Michigan State University** | East Lansing, MI

May 2017

Bachelors of Arts with Honors in Social Relations and Policy, Minor: Women and Gender's Studies

- Award: Herbert Garfinkel Award for integrating community service into program of study in public affairs.
- Thesis: "Black Excellence Matters: Exploring African American Men's Low College Enrollment and Baccalaureate Degree Completion Rates."
- Study Abroad: **University of Cambridge**, Cambridge, England. 2016
- Study Abroad: **Regents University of London**, London, England. 2015

---

## EXPERIENCE:

**Project Create D.C., Graduate Research Assistant** | Washington D.C.

January 2019- September 2019

- Created key messaging for social media content to grow interest of key public.
- Generated branding strategies to improve media coverage, traffic, and increase donors.
- Researched external environment, industry, and various demographics to conduct a communications plan.
- Monitored organization's website traffic and progression through Google Analytics, Sniply, and interviews.
- Designed, composed, and presented an integrated communications plan, representative of the industry's best practices, trends, and tools.

**Progress Change Campaign, Field Organizer** | Washington D.C.

September 2017- December 2018

- Transferred voter outreach numbers to campaign headquarters.
- Maximized local campaign outreach and visibility through canvassing.
- Managed volunteers for canvassing, phone banking, peer-to-peer texting, and data entry.
- Educated families and community members on the policies of Stacey Abrams, Beto' O'Rourke, and Congresswoman Cortez.

**United States Senate, Legislative Intern** | Lansing & Washington D.C.

January 2017-May 2017

- Drafted memos on education policies for the Senator's legislative aides and portfolios.
- Analyzed new legislation to determine potential impact on Congress and Michigan citizens.
- Maintained community relationships between the Senator and the public for constituents' approval.
- Developed key messaging and positioning statements for social media outlets including Facebook and Twitter.
- Attended hearings and briefings to summarize testimonies relevant to legislation and congressional decision-making.

---

## SKILLS:

- Press Writing
- Social and New Media
- Calendar Management
- Public Speaking
- Cision Media Monitoring
- Phone rolling
- Media Relations
- Event Planning
- Community Outreach
- Hoot suite

---

## Other Relevant Experiences:

- United States Congressional Black Caucus, Emerging Leader | Washington D.C.
- Special Olympics, Graduate Research Assistant | Dublin, Ireland
- Michigan State University Office of Research and Public Policy, Research Assistant | East Lansing, MI
- Michigan House of Representatives, Legislative Intern | Lansing, MI