

**PAUL SIMON**  
**PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE**

.....  
YEAR *in* REVIEW | **2024**







*Front and inside cover photos by Martin H. Simon.*



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

.....

Dear Friends,

In this space last year, I mentioned the Simon Institute’s history of promoting hope and optimism and how it was young people like those at SIU and on campuses around the country that motivated my dad to keep going, even when times got tough. I believe it was that youthful inspiration for why he chose to focus his work here on fostering three key things:

- Ethical conduct in government
- Opportunity and fair treatment for people in America and throughout the world
- Responsible citizenship for all Americans, especially young Americans



Director Shaw’s “Better Politics, Smarter Government” agenda embodies that core mission, keeping faith with Dad’s vision and commitment to developing and advancing effective public policies, modeling civil discourse, and encouraging students to consider careers in public service.

As our nation enters what can at best be described as uncertain times for the support of public education, your continued support of Dad’s vision and the work of John Shaw and his team is needed more than ever. And it is greatly appreciated!

Thank you,

MARTIN H. SIMON



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Paul Simon Public Policy Institute







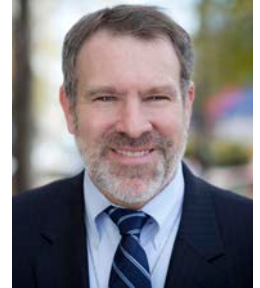


## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

.....

Dear Friends,

During a turbulent year in the United States, the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute continued to support democracy and promote civility. We advocated for effective and visionary public policies and encouraged students to consider careers in public affairs. The Institute supported students with special programs, scholarships, internships, work opportunities, and awards. We hosted compelling programs and distinguished speakers, illuminating critical issues, stimulating dialogue, and elevating the Institute and Southern Illinois University.



During the course of the year, we invited excellent speakers to campus, including Scott Simon, NPR's Weekend Edition Saturday host, John Rogers, founder and Co-CEO of Ariel Investments, Tony McCombie, Illinois House Republican Leader, Samuel Freedman, professor at Columbia Journalism School, and John Palfrey, president of the MacArthur Foundation.

The Institute organized a special political roundtable in Chicago on the first day of the Democratic Convention with former Illinois congressman and U.S. transportation secretary Ray LaHood, former Illinois congresswoman Cheri Bustos, and Carl Hulse, chief Washington correspondent of the New York Times.

Three of our signature programs demonstrated our enduring commitment to Illinois: the Renewing Illinois Summit for college and university students, the Paul Simon-Jim Edgar Award for statesmanship in state and local government in Illinois, and the Paul Simon Democracy Prize for students who develop projects to promote democracy in their communities.

The Institute hosted exceptional virtual events last year which significantly expanded our audience and our reach. We enjoyed conversations with John Hamre, president of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Brian Rosenberg, former president of Macalester College, Evelyn Farkas, executive director of the McCain Institute, John Palfrey, president of the MacArthur Foundation, Louise Richardson, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Norm Ornstein, political analyst at the American Enterprise Institute, Bill Hoagland, senior vice president of the Bipartisan Policy Center, Fanta Aw, executive director of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, Kai Bird, Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer, Carla Martinez Machain, professor at the University of Buffalo, Lindsey Cormack, professor at Stevens Institute of Technology, and Jan Eliasson, former UN deputy secretary-general.

Your support allows us to continue, expand, and celebrate Paul Simon's important legacy. We are very grateful!

With many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John T. Shaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

JOHN T. SHAW





**WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATIONS**



## SPECIAL EVENTS

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The Institute hosted several special programs in 2024 that offered SIU students, faculty, and staff, as well as the Institute's larger community, wonderful opportunities to meet and listen to compelling speakers in Carbondale.

### Our 2024 special events included:



### ILLINOIS HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER COMES TO CARBONDALE

The Institute was delighted to have hosted a conversation with Illinois State Rep. Tony McCombie, the Illinois House Republican leader, on September 9. McCombie, the first woman to serve as House Republican leader in the state, joined Institute Director Shaw to discuss the Republican Party's policy agenda and reviewed the issues her party believed would be crucial for success in the 2024 Illinois general elections.



### ILLINOIS POLITICS 2024 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON FIRST DAY OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Institute hosted a roundtable discussion in Chicago on August 19, the first day of the Democratic National Convention about the changing landscape of Illinois politics.

Shaw moderated the discussion, which featured former U.S. Representative Cheri Bustos, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, Chief Washington Correspondent for *The New York Times* Carl Hulse, and the founder and editor of WisPolitics, Jeff Mayers.



Special Events can be found on our YouTube Channel  
[YOUTUBE.COM/PAULSIMONINSTITUTE](https://www.youtube.com/paulsimoninstitute)



## THE FUTURE OF AMERICA'S MEDIA WITH NPR'S SCOTT SIMON

Award-winning broadcaster, commentator and author Scott Simon visited the Institute on April 17. The host of National Public Radio's Weekend Edition Saturday and NPR's morning podcast Up First, Simon discussed his career as well as the challenges that face American journalism.



## NATIONALLY RESPECTED ENTREPRENEUR JOHN ROGERS VISITS SIU

John W. Rogers Jr., founder and co-CEO of Ariel Investments, joined the Institute on April 11 for a fireside conversation with Institute Director Shaw. The two reflected on Rogers' remarkable career, the history and mission of his firm and the lessons he has learned from his active participation in business and public service.



## AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR DISCUSSES CIVIL RIGHTS, PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS

Samuel Freedman, an award-winning author and journalist, presented his lecture "When Civil Rights Won the House: Harry Truman, Hubert Humphrey, A. Phillip Randolph and the Breakthrough of 1948" at SIU on September 18. Freedman also reflected on the 60th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and discussed his career in journalism and writing.





## UNDERSTANDING OUR NEW WORLD

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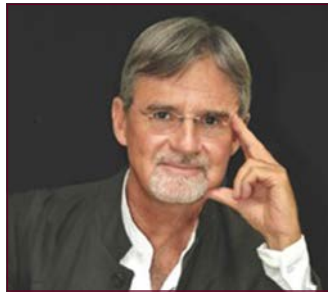
The Institute's Understanding Our New World series of virtual conversations continues to provide critical insights about the seismic political and cultural changes that are shaping our collective future. We hosted 12 conversations this year with a diverse array of speakers covering a wide range of topics, including religion, democracy, voting, journalism, philanthropy, civil rights, economics and history.

We are continuing this series in 2025. Visit [paulsimoninstitute.org/events](https://paulsimoninstitute.org/events) to see who we'll be speaking with and register to join us.



**Fanta Aw**

Executive Director and CEO of NAFSA:  
Association of International Educators



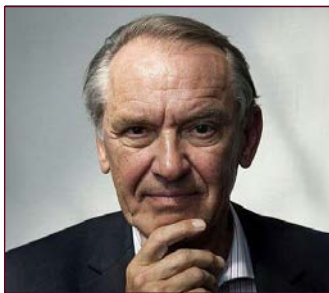
**Kai Bird**

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and historian



**Lindsey Cormack**

Professor at Stevens Institute of Technology  
and author



**Jan Eliasson**

Former Ambassador to Sweden, former  
Deputy Secretary-General of the  
United Nations



**Dr. Evelyn Farkas**

Executive Director of the McCain Institute



**John Hamre**

CEO of Center for Strategic and  
International Studies





**William Hoagland**  
Senior Vice President at the Bipartisan  
Policy Center



**Carla Martinez Machain**  
Professor at the University of Buffalo, SUNY



**Norman Ornstein**  
Senior Fellow Emeritus at the American  
Enterprise Institute



**John Palfrey**  
President of the MacArthur Foundation



**Dame Louise Richardson**  
President of the Carnegie Corporation of  
New York



**Brian Rosenberg**  
President Emeritus of Macalester College



**Understanding Our New World** conversations can be found  
on our YouTube channel

**YOUTUBE.COM/PAULSIMONINSTITUTE**

**OR**

**SCAN THE QR CODE**





## MORTON-KENNEY LECTURE

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The Morton-Kenney Public Affairs Lecture Series is presented by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute and SIU's School of Anthropology, Political Science, and Sociology. The lectures occur in the spring and fall of each year. The late Jerome Mileur, an SIU alumnus, established the series in 1995 in honor of two of his political science professors—Ward Morton and David Kenney—who inspired him as a student.

### The lectures in 2024 were:



**Sarah McCammon**  
National Political Correspondent  
for National Public Radio.

McCammon discussed her 2024 book, "The Exvangelicals: Loving, Living, and Leaving the White Evangelical Church."



**John Palfrey**  
President of the MacArthur  
Foundation.

Palfrey discussed the challenges and opportunities confronting philanthropy and a major initiative to bolster local news organizations across the country.

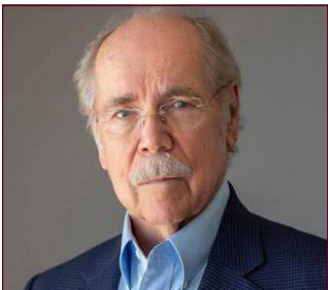


Watch **Morton-Kenney Lectures** on our YouTube channel [YOUTUBE.COM/PAULSIMONINSTITUTE](https://www.youtube.com/paulsimoninstitute)

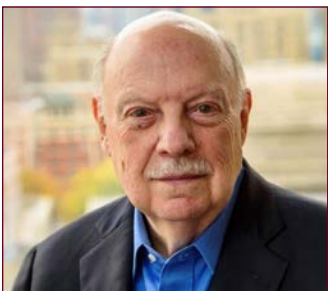
## ILLINOIS AUTHORS

The Institute's Illinois Authors series introduces our viewers to writers who are shaping our understanding of Illinois' past and present and who are helping us envision our state's future.

### Last year, we had stimulating conversations with:



**Dave Kindred**  
Kindred, one of America's premier sportswriters, discussed his 2023 book, "My Home Team: A Sportswriter's Life and the Redemptive Power of Small-Town Girls Basketball."



**Dick Simpson**  
A former Chicago alderman and campaign strategist, Simpson discussed his 2022 book, "Democracy's Rebirth: The View from Chicago" and his January 2024 book, "Chicago's Modern Mayors: From Harold Washington to Lori Lightfoot."



**Want to dive deeper into Illinois history, culture, or politics?**  
Download *Illinois 101*, a collection of essential reading recommendations from state leaders, at [PAULSIMONINSTITUTE.ORG/ILLINOIS101](https://paulsimoninstitute.org/illinois101)

**ILLINOIS 101**  
RECOMMENDED  
READING LIST





## BUILDING A STRONGER ILLINOIS

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### Renewing Illinois Summit:

Bringing students together to share ideas for revitalizing the Prairie State.



### Congressional Conversations:

Discussing critical issues with members of the Illinois congressional delegation.



### Paul Simon Democracy Prize:

Students submit projects to revitalize democracy in their communities.



### Meet the Mayor:

Getting to know Illinois' municipal leaders.



### Simon-Edgar Award:

Celebrating statesmanship in Illinois municipal and state government.



### Illinois Authors:

Meeting the writers who bring the Prairie State to life.



### Better Politics,

### Smarter Government:

Statewide public policy op-eds.



### Future of Illinois Project:

Assessing fundamental challenges facing Illinois.



### Public Affairs Internships:

Training future public service leaders in Springfield and throughout Illinois.



### Illinois 101:

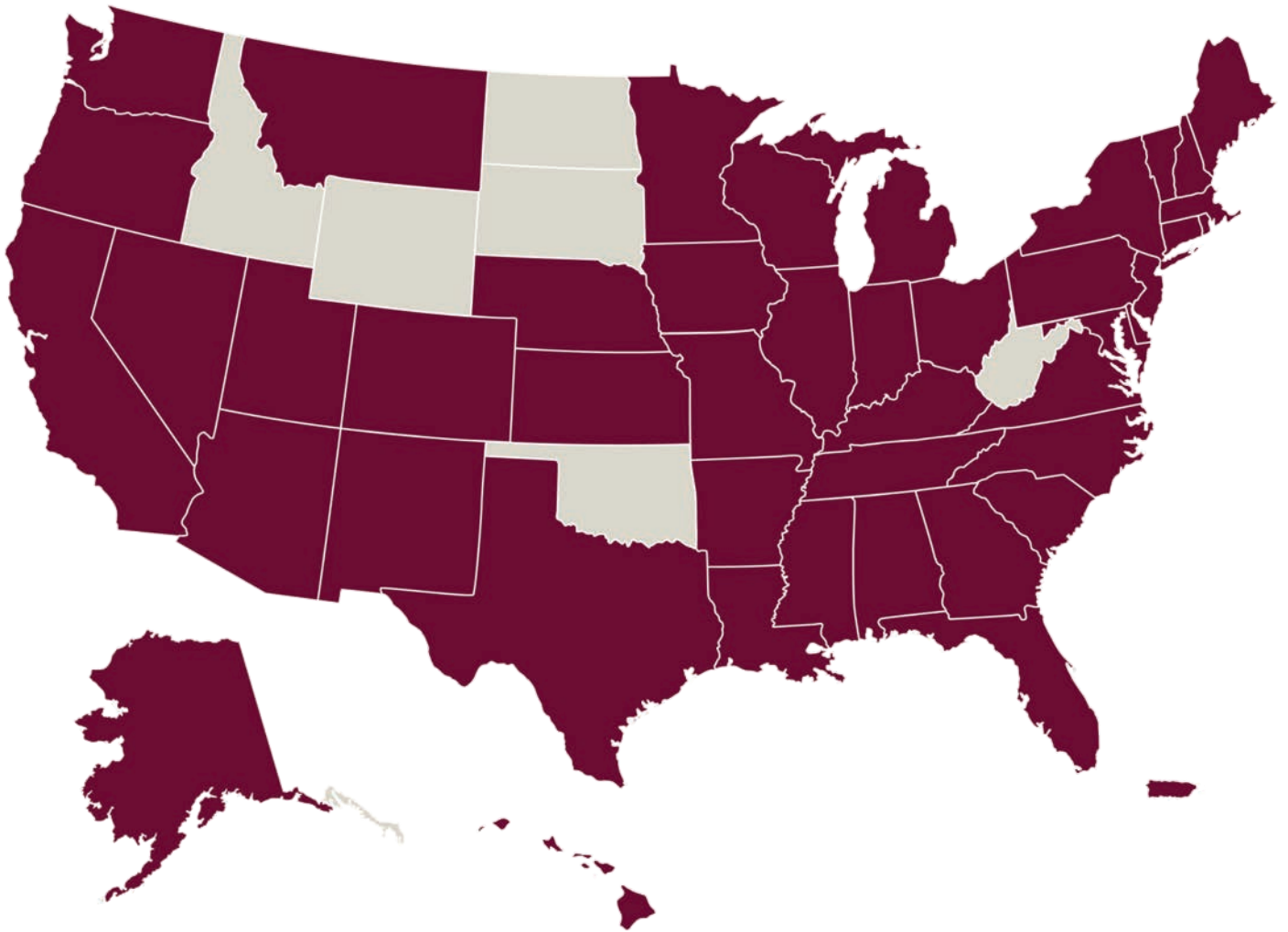
State leaders' must-reads for a deeper understanding of Illinois history and culture.



### Rising Stars in Illinois Politics:

Conversations with the new generation of leaders.

VIRTUAL EVENT  
**REACH**  
SINCE 2020



**45** STATES &  
TERRITORIES



# 42

## COUNTRIES

- |    |                 |    |                |
|----|-----------------|----|----------------|
| 1  | ARGENTINA       | 31 | SAUDI ARABIA   |
| 2  | AUSTRALIA       | 32 | SINGAPORE      |
| 3  | BELGIUM         | 33 | SLOVENIA       |
| 4  | BRAZIL          | 34 | SOUTH AFRICA   |
| 5  | CANADA          | 35 | SOUTH KOREA    |
| 6  | DENMARK         | 36 | SWEDEN         |
| 7  | ENGLAND         | 37 | SWITZERLAND    |
| 8  | ESTONIA         | 38 | UKRAINE        |
| 9  | FINLAND         | 39 | UNITED KINGDOM |
| 10 | FRANCE          | 40 | UNITED STATES  |
| 11 | GEORGIA         | 41 | VIETNAM        |
| 12 | GERMANY         | 42 | ZIMBABWE       |
| 13 | GHANA           |    |                |
| 14 | HONDURAS        |    |                |
| 15 | INDIA           |    |                |
| 16 | INDONESIA       |    |                |
| 17 | IRELAND         |    |                |
| 18 | ISRAEL          |    |                |
| 19 | ITALY           |    |                |
| 20 | JAPAN           |    |                |
| 21 | KOSOVO          |    |                |
| 22 | MALAYSIA        |    |                |
| 23 | MEXICO          |    |                |
| 24 | MOLDOVA         |    |                |
| 25 | NETHERLANDS     |    |                |
| 26 | NEW ZEALAND     |    |                |
| 27 | NORTH MACEDONIA |    |                |
| 28 | NORWAY          |    |                |
| 29 | POLAND          |    |                |
| 30 | ROMANIA         |    |                |



**112,000+**  
 **YouTube**  
**VIEWS**

**13,000+**  
**AUDIENCE REACHED**





ONE WAY  
→

NO TURN ON RED



**BETTER POLITICS, SMARTER GOVERNMENT**



## PAUL SIMON-JIM EDGAR STATESMANSHIP AWARD

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### FORMER OTTAWA MAYOR ROBERT ESCHBACH IS RECIPIENT OF SIMON-EDGAR AWARD

Former Ottawa Mayor Robert Eschbach is the recipient of the 2024 Paul Simon-Jim Edgar Statesmanship Award for his more than two decades of visionary, practical and effective leadership as mayor and his continuing work to make his community strong, vibrant and optimistic.

Eschbach served as mayor of Ottawa, Illinois, from 1999 to 2019.

Eschbach is a native of Ottawa. He attended Illinois Valley College and graduated from Illinois State University. He earned a law degree from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

A native of Ottawa, Eschbach returned to his hometown after receiving his law degree from the University of Illinois. He volunteered on projects related to environmental protection, historic preservation, and downtown and neighborhood revitalization.

He served on the city's plan commission, zoning board and historic preservation commission before he was elected mayor in 1999.

When he became mayor, Ottawa was struggling with job loss and a badly deteriorating downtown. Eschbach helped draft a comprehensive plan in 1999, the first in Ottawa's history, and later submitted a revised plan that won the 2016 American Planning Association's Daniel Burnham Award for Outstanding Comprehensive Plan. He also worked with colleagues on a floodplain plan that earned national awards.

He led a successful citywide effort to attract jobs, revitalize downtown, develop the riverfront, beautify the city and sponsor a wide array of festivals and cultural events.

The annual Simon-Edgar Statesmanship Award is presented to an elected state or local government official in Illinois who has demonstrated a pattern of public service characterized by vision, courage, compassion, effectiveness, civility, and bipartisanship.



Institute Director John Shaw, former Ottawa Mayor Robert Eschbach and former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar.



**Simon-Edgar**  
STATESMANSHIP  
AWARD

The Simon-Edgar Award shines a spotlight on remarkable leadership that is taking place in our state and our communities, inspiring current and future public servants to act in the best traditions of Illinois.

Illinois residents, including political, academic, and business leaders, nominated dozens of state, city, and county officials for the Simon-Edgar Award. Look for nominations for the 2025 award to open in the spring at [paulsimoninstitute.org/SimonEdgarAward](https://paulsimoninstitute.org/SimonEdgarAward).



## RENEWING ILLINOIS SUMMIT

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The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute hosted our third Renewing Illinois Summit on SIU's campus from October 24-25. The Summit drew over 70 students from 10 different institutions and included presentations by SIU System President Dan Mahony, Illinois State Representative Carol Ammons, former Illinois State Historian Sam Wheeler and author Jim Nowlan. Former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar delivered the keynote address, describing his career in politics and analyzing the current political environment. President Mahony outlined the challenges confronting colleges and universities in Illinois. Representative Ammons described her proposal to overhaul higher education financing in Illinois. Historian Wheeler presented an informative and entertaining history of Illinois's state song. Carley Jo Goggans, an SIU graduate student, performed a stirring rendition of "Illinois."



For more information, visit  
**[PAULSIMONINSTITUTE.ORG/RENEWINGIL](https://PAULSIMONINSTITUTE.ORG/RENEWINGIL)**



## PAUL SIMON DEMOCRACY PRIZE

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The Institute presented four \$5,000 awards as part of the annual Paul Simon Democracy Prize in 2024. The recipients were current students from Illinois colleges and universities, recognized for designing and implementing projects aimed at revitalizing democracy in their communities.

### 2024 Paul Simon Democracy Prize Winners:



**PAUL SIMON**  
DEMOCRACY PRIZE

**VanKevia Garner** of Southern Illinois University has developed a podcast series to explore the restoration of voting rights for people with criminal records and encourage civic engagement among previously incarcerated people.

**Lylee Gibbs** of Southern Illinois University continues to help develop the Saluki Local Reporting Lab at SIU. Her project focuses on telling local news stories in Southern Illinois, specifically in Alexander County, which has the lowest median income in Illinois.

**Keara Gray** of Illinois State University developed The Young Sovereign Citizens Project, which organizes community conversations on current civic issues.

**Saqlain Khurshid and Lyndsay Jones** of Illinois State University developed an analytic model to predict voting probability among ISU students. The model will target students who are less likely to vote with relevant information via an AI-driven chatbot on ISU's Center for Civic Engagement website.



Institute Director John Shaw, Keara Gray, Lylee Gibbs and VanKevia Garner at the 2024 Renewing Illinois Summit.



## WOMEN'S CIVIC DAY

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Women's Civic Day, one of the flagship initiatives of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, empowers and inspires the next generation of women leaders by connecting Southern Illinois University students with the heart of Illinois state government. Held annually at the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield and led by Dr. Linda Baker, this event highlights the achievements of women in public service, celebrating the leadership and impact of women legislators, public officials, and community advocates.

Designed to cultivate leadership skills and encourage greater civic engagement, the program provides participants with opportunities to engage with influential speakers, including state lawmakers, senior public sector leaders, and prominent community organizers. Through these interactions, students gain invaluable insights into the legislative process, build professional networks, and are inspired to pursue careers in public policy and leadership.



For more information, visit  
**[PAULSIMONINSTITUTE.ORG/INITIATIVES](https://paulsimoninstitute.org/initiatives)**



## YOUTH LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

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The Institute hosted the 19th Metro East Youth Leadership Weekend in November. The theme was “Leadership: Young Men Making Your Mark in a Digital Age.” More than 40 students in grades 8 through 12 engaged in activities designed to promote career awareness, servant leadership, and political involvement.

The program featured a variety of activities, including breakout sessions with local leaders and group activities at SIU’s Touch of Nature. Alderman Ronnie Mosley, representing Chicago’s 21st Ward and the youngest alderperson serving one of the city’s largest wards on the South Side, delivered a captivating keynote address.

The leadership weekend has been one of the crown jewels of the Institute since Paul Simon launched the program in 2002. Dr. Linda Baker directs the weekend with assistance from local mentoring groups from the Metro East area.

Many young men who participated in the program in previous years have gone on to achieve considerable academic and professional success.

We look forward to following the achievements of last year’s participants.





## INTERNSHIPS



### 2024 SPRINGFIELD INTERNS

<b>Israel Ruiz</b> <i>Latino Heritage Intern</i> Illinois Senate	<b>Matthew Laurent</b> <i>Gene Callaban Intern</i> Illinois House of Representatives	<b>Hailey Blanchard</b> <i>Alexander Lane Intern</i> Illinois House of Representatives	<b>Emma McConnell</b> <i>Gene Callaban Intern</i> Illinois House of Representatives	<b>LaMya Roach</b> <i>Alexander Lane Intern</i> Illinois House of Representatives
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### VINCE DEMUZIO GOVERNMENTAL INTERNS FALL 2024

**Justyce Petty**  
SIU Small Business Development  
Center

**Brooke Jordan**  
Carbondale City Attorney's Office



Macy Sanchez with Dr. Linda Baker

### CELIA M. HOWARD FELLOW

Macy Sanchez is the Institute's 2024-25 fellow. A native of Benton, Ill., Sanchez earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry from SIU in 2023 and is currently a first-year law student at Southern. Under the tutelage of Dr. Linda Baker, her research focuses on the leadership styles of women, with an emphasis on state and local elected officials. She plans to expand her research to include the judiciary.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Penny Bordewick**  
*Barbara Brown Memorial  
Scholarship*

**Taylor Gump**  
*Barbara Brown Memorial  
Scholarship*

**Sierra Wilson**  
*Barbara Brown Memorial  
Scholarship*

**Amber Koteris**  
*Edwin Phillips Scholarship*

**Jacob Hall**  
*David Yepsen Director's Award*

**Malia Bierman**  
*Jeanne Hurley Simon Memorial  
Scholarship*

**Zeneya Scott**  
*Mike Lawrence Scholarship*

**Lora Judge**  
*Matt Baughman Scholarship*

**LaMya Roach**  
*Peggy Ramsey Botterman and  
Mark R. Botterman Scholarship*



# OUR THANKS

NATIONAL  
BOWTIE DAY!

CELEBRATE  
the legacy of  
SENATOR PAUL SIMON



PHOTO  
BOOTH



SIU  
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
PAUL SIMON  
PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

**PSPI FALL EVENTS**

Aug. 28 - Meet the Mayor of Carbondale, Carolee Harvey  
First Lady Mayor of the City of Carbondale since 2004  
8:00 a.m.

Sept. 22 - Film & Politics: Michael Frericha  
Award-Winning Producer of PBS' Frontline  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Sept. 28 - Morton-Kimney Lecture: Cheri Bustos  
Former Congresswoman from Illinois' 12th District  
6:00 p.m.

Special Program: An Illinois Political Family  
Award-Winning U.S. Secretary of Transportation  
Past Congresswoman from Illinois' 16th District  
8:00 p.m.





## HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

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