

Cleveland State University Student Chapter Spotlight

Name: Alexandra Higl

Hometown: Parma Heights, Ohio

School Attending: Cleveland State University (Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs)

Degree(s) Pursuing: Master of Public Administration (Expected May 2018)

Degree(s) Earned: BA, Communications (Journalism/Media Writing) from John Carroll University



Past or Current Mentors: When I attended John Carroll, I was fortunate enough to meet three different professors who I consider some of my greatest mentors and role models. All three individuals played a major role in helping me decide to pursue an MPA. Additionally, Dr. Nick Zingale, CSU ICMA's faculty advisor, has been an influential mentor and helped sharpen my research skills as a graduate assistant.

When and how did you become interested in a career in local government? When I first began the MPA program, I was primarily interested in nonprofit management. However, somewhat unexpectedly, the program's coursework piqued my interest in city and county management. This led me to pursue a public policy fellowship at Cuyahoga County this past summer. The fellowship solidified my desire to become a public servant. As president of CSU's ICMA student chapter, I'm hoping to develop a greater understanding of local government, as well as the challenges leaders face.

Do you have a special local government area of interest? I'm particularly interested in community development.

Short-term goal (next 5 years): Upon graduation in May, I'm hoping to secure a job at the city or county level in Northeast Ohio. I have a deep appreciation for Cleveland and Northeast Ohio as a whole, and hope to use my skills to strengthen our community.

Long-term goal (next 10 years): Eventually, I hope to work my way up the ladder to an upper management position – ultimately inspiring my team to enact change in the community.

How would you describe yourself? Someone who's curious and realizes there's always something new to learn.

Favorite Quote: "What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?" -Vincent Van Gogh