

2024/2025 COHORT



HELEN VALLEJOS CASTRO (she/her)

Helen Vallejos Castro is a second-year undergraduate student studying Public Health and minoring in Public Policy and Health Equity from Northern Virginia. Helen is passionate about maternal mental health and reproductive health for Latina youth. She is interested in learning more about postpartum depression and post-natal care. In the future, Helen plans to attend graduate school to obtain her MPH, specifically maternal health or health policy.

THANH TRAN (she/her)

Thanh Tran is currently pursuing Neuroscience and Health Equity on a pre-med track. In her free time, she enjoys drawing, painting, and journaling. She is passionate about promoting equitable healthcare in underserved communities, and is planning on focusing on this to pursue during her gap years after undergrad before entering medical school. Specifically, she plans to work in low-income areas and bridge the barriers women face in accessing quality healthcare. Aspiring to become an obstetrician-gynecologist, she is committed to advancing reproductive health and improving outcomes for women.

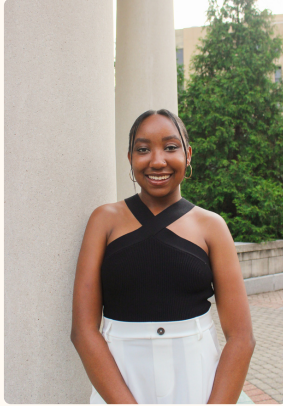


HOLLY AKATI (she/her)

Holly Akati is a sophomore from Bethesda, Maryland, studying Health Data Science on the pre-med track. She is hoping to go into medicine and bioinformatics research. She is originally from Benin and has always been interested in child and maternal health in Africa, specifically with malnutrition and how it can be improved. She is hoping to find new ways and opportunities to do so through the LEAP into MCH program.



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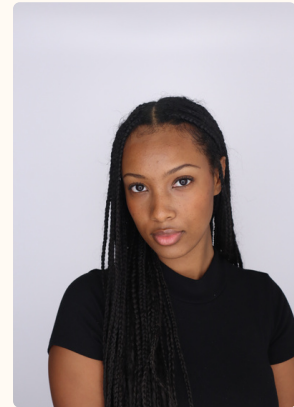


KIANDRA WHITE (she/her)

Kiandra White is a third-year undergraduate at GW, originally from El Paso, Texas. She is a Public Health and Korean Language and Literature double major. For her future career goals, she hopes to combine her love of Public Health and Korean to translate medical information, become a physician, and create policies that make healthcare, maternal and child care, and sexual health education more accessible to underrepresented minorities. Outside of her studies, she is a part of Delta Epsilon Mu, the GW Sirens, Capital Peers, and Program Board on GW's campus.

MESHAT ABEBE (she/her)

Meshat Abebe is a fourth-year student from North Carolina majoring in Psychological Brain Sciences with a minor in Biological Sciences. She is passionate about promoting Health Equity, especially for people of color and non-English speakers. Her interests focus on maternal mental health, disease prevention, and treatment. As a pre-med student, her goal is to become a physician dedicated to reducing health disparities and improving healthcare accessibility for underserved communities.



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GABRIELA DIAZ-GUZMAN (she/her)

Gabriela Diaz is a second-year undergrad majoring in Exercise Science and Public Health. She is currently on the pre-med track and very eager to learn more about the MCH field and apply it on her journey. She is very passionate about giving back to the community, and serving the Latin and Black community in her career is very dear to her. She loves to travel and hopes to one day volunteer and perform research in hospitals and clinics all around Latin America. She also hopes to expand her knowledge on the differences in healthcare around the world. After graduation, her goals are to pursue a MPH or MHA and then go on to medical school. As a first-gen Hispanic, she hopes to become an advocate and help promote diversity in the medical field.

MAJA HAWTHORNE (she/her)

Maja Hawthorne is a second-year undergraduate student from Greenville, South Carolina. She is currently pursuing a double major in Public Health and Interaction Design. She is also passionate about addressing disparities in maternal and child health and raising awareness about nutritional health in underserved communities. Maja plans to utilize the intersectionality of public health and interaction design by developing innovative products and implementing campaigns to comprehensively address health challenges and establish initiatives that resonate with people. Looking ahead, Maja envisions attending graduate school to obtain her MPH to further contribute to the field.



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HUNMAE MCCOLLUM (she/her)

Hunmae McCollum is a second-year undergraduate student at GW. She is from New Haven, Connecticut, majoring in Public Health with a Health Law concentration and a double minor in Human Services and Social Justice and Spanish. She is currently the Service Day Chair of the Black Heritage Celebration Club. She is interested in the maternal health disparities in marginalized groups and learning how to dismantle and rebuild the systems perpetuating these disparities to create a more equitable, safe healthcare system for all women and their children. After graduation, she plans to go to law school to become a Public Health Attorney to assist these groups in obtaining the adequate amount of care they need holistically, no matter their background.

MIRIAM TITIOYE (she/her)

Miriam Titiloye is a second year undergraduate student majoring in Public Health on the pre-med track. She was born in the United States, but raised in Nigeria. She is interested in gaining clinical experience and exposure to Maternal and Child Health. After graduating, she hopes to attend medical school and work in the Maternal Health field. In the future, she wants to help develop efficient maternal and child health programs in Nigeria. She also hopes to improve emergency operation systems in Nigeria, as she just completed her EMT training and will shortly start working in emergency operations.



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SYDNEY BOYD (she/her)

Sydney Boyd is a second-year undergraduate student from Charleston, South Carolina. She is on the pre-law track, double majoring in International Affairs and Public Health with a micro-minor in Health Equity. With these intersecting degrees, she aspires to pursue a career in health policy law, contributing to the shaping and implementation of legal frameworks that address public health challenges and promote the well-being of vulnerable communities. After serving as an intern with the Center for Reproductive Rights, Sydney has developed a passion for ensuring all individuals have the right to and access to reproductive care, with a particular focus on reducing the maternal mortality rate, especially for Black women. Post-graduation, Sydney plans to pursue a Master of Public Health and a Juris Doctorate degree, aiming to create a meaningful impact at the intersection of health and law. With a specific focus on maternal and child health, Sydney aspires to address critical issues related to reproductive rights and access, aiming to establish innovative health policies that enhance the well-being of women and children.

JASMINE VALENCIA (she/her)

Jasmine Valencia is a sophomore majoring in Public Health, minoring in Spanish, and on the pre-pa track. She loves music, books, fashion, and good food. She is super excited to be part of this year's LEAP cohort!

