

# PLENI

Preparing You to Lead

Public Leadership Education Network



HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH

GENEVA, NEW YORK 14456

[WWW.HWS.EDU](http://WWW.HWS.EDU)



Dear PLEN Community,

At Hobart and William Smith Colleges (HWS), the Public Leadership Education Network (PLEN) is dedicated to uplifting marginalized gender groups through mentorship, networking, and empowerment. Founded in the fall of 2010 at HWS, we are celebrating 15 years of PLEN at HWS. There have been thousands of students (many now our alums) who have participated in PLEN programs on our campus and more than 250 who have attended PLEN seminars in Washington, D.C. PLEN is an integral part of the HWS community, and we are proud to be the most active PLEN campus chapter in the U.S.

Our PLEN chapter at HWS supports this mission by hosting bi-weekly events open to our campus community. These gatherings feature guest speakers, including faculty, alums, and professionals in our community and from around the world. All our speakers share their own personal and professional journeys including challenges they have worked to overcome. Each PLEN event centers on a theme that reflects empowerment, whether it is through journaling, panel discussions, diplomacy simulations or skillsbuilding workshops.

PLEN has two spheres: our local chapter at HWS and PLEN National. At HWS, we focus on building a supportive space for marginalized gender groups through self-care, leadership, and public policy discussions. Nationally, PLEN works to increase the representation of women and marginalized gender identities in public policy by connecting students with leaders and changemakers in Washington, D.C. A key component of our connection to PLEN National is the PLEN seminars in D.C., which offer students the opportunity to engage directly with policymakers and expand their networks. Several HWS students attend these seminars each year, gaining invaluable insights and experiences that further our shared mission.

Through our campus events and support for PLEN National's seminars, we continue to practice PLEN's motto: Preparing You to Lead. We aim to build a strong and inclusive network that empowers the next generation of leaders. This directory is more than a resource; it reflects the work we do together to support and inspire the next generation of inclusive leaders. We hope it helps you connect with fellow students, alumni, and opportunities that fuel change.

Our Best,  
PLEN at HWS



## Allison Magnarelli '18

**MAJOR** Sociology

**MINORS** Public Policy & Entrepreneurial Studies

**CURRENT POSITION**

Associate Litigation Attorney, Morrison Foerster  
*Washington, D.C.*

**SEMINARS ATTENDED**

Women in Law & Legal Advocacy '16 & '17

"My practice focuses on investigations & white collar and antitrust matters. I joined the PLEN Board in January 2024 and participated on the seminar programming committee for the 2024 health policy and 2025 public policy seminars, where I facilitated a "Networking 101" session and panel discussion around "Launching Your Career." I am fortunate to be based in Washington D.C. so that I can attend the many PLEN events and meet with students and alums."



## Natasha Patel '18

**MAJOR** Political Science

**MINOR** Public Policy

**CURRENT POSITION**

Associate Attorney, Strassburger McKenna Gutnick  
& Gefksy *Pittsburgh, PA*

**SEMINAR ATTENDED**

Women in Law & Legal Advocacy '16

"My path to becoming an attorney was not linear, which is okay! I learned at my PLEN conference early on that many careers are not linear and that the path to success is often full of ups, downs, twists, and many turns. I also found a great network of women through PLEN, both at HWS and beyond. I learned vital networking and career-building skills that helped set me up for success in my current role. I often reflect and think back to my time at PLEN and William Smith and am thankful for all the wonderful opportunities and lessons I was afforded there."



## Kelly Biggs '11

**MAJOR** Sociology

**MINORS** Women's Studies & Political Science

**CURRENT POSITION**

Founder, Catskill Strategic Consulting

*Catskill, NY*

**SEMINAR ATTENDED**

Women, Law, and Public Policy '10

Kelly's career path was shaped by the PLEN Women, Law, and Public Policy Seminar, where a speaker's advice — "You don't need a law degree to work in DC!" — convinced her to pivot from law school to politics and advocacy. That first trip to DC in the fall of 2010 sparked a lasting love for the city. Before founding Catskill Strategic Consulting, she served as Director of Development for Zinc Collective, where she raised \$4M+ to bolster key frontline and red-to-blue congressional races and Senate battlegrounds during the 2022 midterms. Previously, she held fundraising roles at EMILY's List, Johns Hopkins University, Chapman Cubine Adams + Hussey (now MissionWired) and served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Global Government Relations at JPMorgan Chase & Co.



## Morgan Lucas '16

**MAJOR** Environmental Studies

**MINOR** Political Science

**CURRENT POSITION**

VP of Marketing & Investor Relations, Linden

Advisors LP *New York, NY*

**SEMINAR ATTENDED**

Law and Legal Advocacy '13

At Linden, Morgan focuses on capital raising, investor relations, and client servicing, supporting the firm's growth and institutional partnerships. Her commitment to professional development was shaped early on by her participation in a 2013 PLEN seminar where she had the privilege of hearing Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg speak alongside her law clerks. PLEN, the first women-centered organization she joined, fostered a sense of camaraderie and support that continues to influence her today. Morgan now mentors with 100 Women in Finance, advancing gender equity and empowering women in the finance industry.



## Hailey Galvan '26

### PLEN CHAPTER LEADER 2026

**MAJOR** Sociology

**MINORS** Data Analytics & Entrepreneurial Studies

**SEMINAR ATTENDED**

Public Policy '25

"Attending the PLEN Public Policy Seminar was a transformative experience that deepened my understanding of PLEN's mission. Connecting with PLEN alums and professionals in Washington, D.C. showed me how policy can be influenced both within and beyond government, emphasizing that change is not a direct pipeline, but a nexus of actions, ideas, and people. This experience inspired me to strengthen our HWS chapter by introducing networking opportunities, career exploration, and skill-building activities that reflect PLEN's commitment to empowering marginalized groups."



## Maggie Mahoney '26

### PLEN CHAPTER LEADER 2026

**MAJORS** Biology & Environmental Studies

**MINOR** History

**SEMINAR ATTENDED**

Health Policy '24

"Attending the PLEN Health Policy seminar in Washington, D.C. was a pivotal moment in my academic and professional journey. Surrounded by women leaders shaping health policy at the national level, I gained firsthand insight into the intersection of healthcare, advocacy, and public policy. The experience deepened my understanding of systemic health challenges and affirmed my commitment to pursuing a career that blends STEM with equity. Through workshops, panels, mentorship, networking events, and site visits, I left D.C. not only inspired, but empowered to use my voice. This has helped my leadership in the HWS chapter of PLEN, engendering me to use my own voice to create change in the HWS community."



## Zoe Aracena '25

### PLEN CHAPTER LEADER 2025

**MAJORS** Sociology & Education

**MINORS** Child Advocacy & Writing  
Colleague Program

**SEMINAR ATTENDED**

Public Policy '25

"As an aspiring social worker, PLEN's Public Policy Seminar introduced me to a different perspective about the impacts, both positive and negative, that policy has on the vulnerable populations that I aspire to work with. I gained an immense amount of knowledge of public policy on the world that surrounds us. Between the different panels we experience to the discussions we would engage in with our whole group, hearing different people's values, opinions, and motivate made me confident that our world has amazing people that will progress our society in a positive way."



## Kimberly Saavedra-Mendez '25

### PLEN CHAPTER LEADER 2025

**MAJORS** Psychological Science &  
Latin American Studies

**MINOR** Child Advocacy

**SEMINAR ATTENDED**

Public Policy '25

"Attending the PLEN Public Policy seminar aided my understanding of PLEN's mission statement, and the vital influence public policy has on all facets of life. Through the many speakers and workshops, I saw the value in having voices of women and marginalized gender groups be adequately represented in government as well as every other field. I am thankful to have been in rooms with such inspiring peers and professionals advocating for change through leadership, empowerment, and passion."



## **Annabel Ramsay '25**

### **MAJORS**

Asian Studies & Economics

### **MINOR**

Creative Writing

### **SEMINAR ATTENDED**

Global Policy '24

"Although I had been exposed to economic policy through various economics courses – I was less familiar with international policy. Attending the Global Policy PLEN Seminar gave me a solid introduction to the topic area as well as concrete connections to women already working in foreign policy and development. I would stress that PLEN seminars are not just for students interested in politics, they are career development treks for those who are interested in learning about possible career pathways (in both the private and public sectors), as well as the development of networking skills, salary negotiation processes, how to navigate LinkedIn, and various other instructional career sessions. Attending a PLEN Seminar gave me both the soft and hard skills needed to navigate the current career market. I also got to meet a ton of motivated, interesting, and kind individuals, which was, of course, a bonus."



## **Kirsten Roman '26**

### **MAJORS**

Political Science & Latin American Studies

### **MINOR**

Entrepreneurial Studies

### **SEMINAR ATTENDED**

Public Policy '24

"The PLEN Public Policy Seminar had a huge impact on me as it introduced me to many other careers I didn't even think about and gave me hope and motivation to continue to pursue a career in policy. Additionally, since attending the seminar, I have held a piece of advice many of the panelists shared, being that "your path is not always linear". This is a piece of advice and a seminar I recommend everyone attending as the women and panelists who shared their lives and careers with us helped everyone who attended tremendously."



## Cassandra Lundgren '26

### MAJOR

Writing & Rhetoric

### MINOR

American Studies

### SEMINAR ATTENDED

Global Policy '24

"Attending a PLEN seminar influenced who I am from a career-oriented perspective as well as a personal one. Hearing from different accomplished and empowering women working in a variety of sectors in Washington D.C. gave me the confidence to try new things and take risks. I learned that I am capable of demanding yet rewarding work. We listened to panels centered on topics ranging from immigration to anti-human trafficking to networking, and we also explored places such as Capitol Hill and the Smithsonian museums. Every speaker was eager to answer our questions and chat more with us after the panel concluded. I walked away with an impression of the PLEN network as welcoming, inclusive and empowering. I connected with students from different schools across the country and also grew closer to the students from my school. This experience taught me that there are so many different paths and opportunities to explore, allowing me to reflect on what I want my future to be and the type of rewarding work I wish to be involved in."



## Marissa Mastracco '25

### MAJORS

Biology & Sociology

### MINOR

Child Advocacy

### SEMINAR ATTENDED

Global Policy '25

"Attending the PLEN Global Policy Seminar was an incredible experience that broadened my understanding of the diverse career paths within Global Policy. Through engaging with professionals actively working in the field, I gained valuable insights into the real-world applications of global policy and how I can influence positive change."



## Olivia Purefoy '27

### MAJOR

Sociology

### SEMINAR ATTENDED

Health Policy '24

"I have always been fascinated by what it means to be a tenacious advocate and an effective communicator. Through the PLEN health policy seminar, I had the opportunity to meet with lobbyists, Capitol Hill staffers, grassroots advocates, and other key figures in the Public Policy arena. Each introduced me to the various ways one can use their voice and skills to impact change. I saw firsthand how dynamic and expansive the world of policy truly is, leading me to reflect on my own place in it. I am forever grateful for this memorable experience and everything I gained from it."



## Elise Henry '28

### MAJOR

Media & Society

### SEMINAR ATTENDED

Public Policy '25

"The PLEN Public Policy Seminar in DC over winter break was unforgettable. I learned about so many different career paths and left feeling empowered as a woman who has always been a little nervous about politics. This seminar gave me not only the courage to ask questions and put myself out there, but hands on networking experience as well. Since the seminar, I no longer feel like my knowledge is irrelevant or unimportant, I know that I bring something valuable to any table I'm at. Thank you to PLEN for this amazing opportunity!"



## Lisa Kaenzig P'22, HON '10

**MAJOR** Political Science

**MINOR** Women's Studies

### **CURRENT POSITION**

Head of School at Foxcroft School (*effective 7/1/25*)

### **FORMER POSITION**

Dean of William Smith College and Dean of Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Innovation and Director of the Centennial Center (*2003–2025 at HWS*)

### **SEMINARS ATTENDED**

*Women in Congress '89 &*

*Women in Public Policy '90, '92*

"I have been involved with PLEN since my first year in college (1988–1989) at Douglass College/Rutgers University. When I was an undergraduate, we had an active PLEN chapter at Rutgers with regular meetings and special events with visiting women in politics and public policy careers I attended three PLEN seminars while I was in college and then moved to Washington, D.C. after graduation, where I worked in politics and volunteered for PLEN's D.C. office. Along with another PLEN alumna, I helped start the annual PLEN Mentor Awards while I was working in D.C. Several years later, I started PLEN at William Smith College where I served as a dean for 21 years. The first PLEN students from HWS attended a PLEN seminar in the Fall of 2010; so, we will celebrate 15 years of PLEN@HWS in the fall of 2025. I am so proud of the PLEN chapter at HWS and look forward to seeing all that the PLEN student leaders will do in the years ahead. I am so grateful for my own involvement in PLEN over these many years in my own life. It has significantly impacted who I am today and the direction of my career supporting young women and girls in academic and leadership roles. I was very honored to receive a PLEN Lifetime Mentor Award at the PLEN Mentor Awards event in March of 2022. The best part of that experience were all of the William Smith alumnae who joined us for the event and who had raised funds for PLEN in my honor."

"I know that PLEN will continue to grow and expand its network both here on our campus in Geneva, in Washington, DC. and around the world. I look forward to seeing that PLEN@HWS does in the years ahead."

- Lisa Kaenzig, Founder of PLEN@HWS



PLENI TAUGHT ME...  
PUBLIC POLICY SEMINAR '25



HEALTH POLICY SEMINAR '24



HWS PLEN BONDING WITH STUDENTS  
**PUBLIC POLICY SEMINAR '25**



STUDENTS EXPLORING THE U.S. CAPITOL  
**GLOBAL POLICY SEMINAR '24**



STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN A DIPLOMACY SIMULATION  
**PUBLIC POLICY SEMINAR '25**



STUDENTS ASKING QUESTIONS DURING A PLENARY PANEL  
**PUBLIC POLICY SEMINAR '25**



HWS PLEN VISION BOARD MAKING '24-25



HWS PLEN BOUQUET BAR '24 - '25



HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH