

JOSEPH POOL

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EDUCATION

Rollins College

May 2026

Honors B.A. in Public Policy and Political Economy
Minors in Ethics and Global Health
Summa Cum Laude | Phi Beta Kappa | Major GPA: 4.0 | Alfond Scholar

MITx

Expected May 2027

MicroMasters Credential in Data, Economics, and Design of Policy
Specialization on the Public Policy Track

EXPERIENCE

United States House of Representatives

Jun — Aug 2025

Congressional Intern, Office of Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-12)

- Conducted legislative and legal research across a range of policy areas; attended congressional hearings and discussions featuring Cabinet officials.
- Handled and logged constituent calls and inquiries, and routed policy concerns to appropriate offices and staff.

Florida House on Capitol Hill

Jun — Aug 2025

Special Projects Intern

- Planned and executed a Florida college alumni reception for 140 attendees from 12 institutions, overseeing logistics, coordination, and budget management.
- Managed logistics and operations for a weekly congressional seminar series serving students across Capitol Hill.

Breaking Bread

Aug 2023 — Present

Founder and Executive Director

- Founded and scaled a civic initiative using shared meals to bring people together across ideological, religious, and cultural differences, reaching 120+ participants in its first year and expanding to UCF and two other colleges.
- Designed and facilitated recurring programs and community events, earning local and national media recognition.

Rollins College Student Government

Sep 2022 — May 2026

President, Vice President, Chair of Academic Affairs, First-Year Senator

- Managed an \$80,000 annual budget, led a 12-member Executive Board, and oversaw a 36-member Senate.
- Represented student interests before trustees, senior administrators, faculty, staff, and the City of Winter Park while advancing academic and institutional priorities across four years of service.

Biasly

May — Aug 2024

Political Analyst Intern

- Trained and evaluated artificial intelligence models to identify political lean and author bias in media coverage, auditing model outputs and algorithms.

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

Fiat Lux Award, Rollins College	2026
Anchor of the Community Award, Rollins College	2025
Key into Public Service Scholarship, Phi Beta Kappa	2025
Gen. Russell E. Dougherty National Leader of the Year, Omicron Delta Kappa	2025
Student Leader of the Year, Central Florida Pledge	2025
CommUNITY Champion, WESH 2 News	2024

SELECTED LEADERSHIP AND FELLOWSHIPS

- President, Rollins College Alford Scholars Program** 2025 — 2026
- Elected by the Alford Scholars to lead the cohort and take responsibility for the planning and execution of monthly meetings and activities, the recruitment and hosting of prospective students, and presentations to campus leaders.
- President; Vice President for Leadership Development, Rollins College Omicron Delta Kappa Circle** 2023 — 2026
- Presided over the Rollins circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society for two years.
 - Led and coordinated the campus's largest annual leadership development conference for students and staff.
- BRAID Upper Fellow; BRAID Fellow, Interfaith America** 2024 — 2026
- Chosen as one of 20 inaugural Bridgebuilders Relating Across Interfaith Differences Fellows for the work on Breaking Bread and in founding the College's Interfaith Student Council. Received mentorship and program funding for activities that brought together students of different backgrounds.
 - Asked to return as one of 8 inaugural Upper Fellows to receive additional program funding and aid in mentoring the second cohort of BRAID Fellows.
- Phoenix Generation Senior Fellow; Phoenix Generation Fellow, Ginsburg Family Foundation** 2024 — 2026
- Chosen as one of only a few students from across Central Florida colleges to receive mentorship, leadership development training, and scholarship funding to help with student leadership development efforts across the region.
 - Asked to return as a Senior Fellow to provide additional guidance to fellows and help run events across the campus and the local community centered on youth leadership and positive community engagement.
- Student-Faculty Research Fellow, Rollins College Collaborative Research Fellowship Program** 2023
- Selected as a first-year student to conduct research with one of my professors on the historic and social roles of food. The research resulted in a panel presentation at the 2023 Parliament of the World's Religions and the subsequent publication of a co-authored chapter in the 2026 *Bloomsbury Handbook of Religion and Food*.
- ## SELECTED SERVICE AND REPRESENTATION
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- National Student Advisory Board, Omicron Delta Kappa** 2025 — 2026
- Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Search Committee, Rollins College** 2025 — 2026
- Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life Search Committee, Rollins College** 2023 — 2024
- ## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS
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- Chapter: "Sharing: Culinary Diplomacy: Settling Religious Feuds through Food"** 2026
- Co-authored a chapter in the *Bloomsbury Handbook of Religion and Food* with Dr. Yudit Greenberg as a result of successful student-faculty research. Utilized historical analysis and literature review on the way in which food has been used as a tool for political and religious peacemaking.
- Thesis: "Good Food in the Neighborhood: Localizing Nutritious Food Access"** 2026
- Completed an honors degree thesis on when and how state and municipal-level governments can do a better job of provisioning food than the federal government currently does. Created a rubric that allows policymakers to objectively score any food access program across multiple criteria to determine efficacy and feasibility.
- Conference Presentation: "Seed Funding: Soybean Production and Political Instability"** 2026
- Co-presented research with Professor Matthew Rice at the World Social Science Association annual conference on the contemporary challenges and opportunities facing soybean production and the broader American agribusiness sector through the lens of institutional economics.
- Op-ed: "Commentary: Breaking Bread in Honor of Mister Rogers' Legacy"** 2026
- Wrote a commentary for the Orlando Sentinel celebrating Rollins alumnus Mister Fred Rogers and connecting his ethos of service and good neighbors to my own research on and experience with bridging political and civic divides on my campus and in my community.
- Conference Keynote: "Breaking Bread Experience" at the Phoenix Generation Conference** 2025
- Led 400 high-school and college students in a dialogue activity. The conference-wide pre/post survey showed a 19% increase in respondents who felt they could have productive dialogue with someone they disagreed with and a 37% increase in those who felt they could positively impact their community.