



Roosevelt Network Annual Report

2020

“The Roosevelt Network is emblematic of what is possible in our nation: a space for a new generation of leaders to rewrite the rules of change together.”

— STACEY ABRAMS,
*Founder and Executive Director,
Southern Economic Advancement Project*

Dear Alumni,

As we leave behind a year filled with pain and sorrow, we want to take a moment to celebrate the resilience and strength of our community. President Franklin D. Roosevelt once said: “In these days of difficulty, we Americans everywhere must and shall choose the path of social justice . . . the path of faith, the path of hope, and the path of love toward our fellow man.” Our Network has done that.

Perhaps more than at any other point in the organization’s history, carrying forward the Roosevelts’ legacy holds a particular and unmatched significance. The parallels between our political moment and theirs are clear: deep economic inequality across race and gender, entrenched corporate interests, and new global challenges. In the way that the Roosevelts rose to the challenge in the 1930s by reimagining government’s power, **we are too.**

We hope this report showcases the preeminence of this Network, and of our alumni community in particular. We are rewriting the rules, and it’s an honor to be doing that with you.

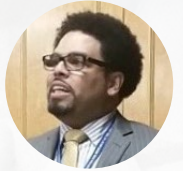
— Katie Kirchner, National Director, and The Alumni Board of Advisors



WHAT IS THE ROOSEVELT NETWORK?

The Roosevelt Network is the intellectual home for thousands of budding policymakers working to build public power in their communities. From college students to their alumni mentors, we believe that together we can realize our nation’s highest ideas by changing who writes the rules in our democracy.

“The problems of our time call for bold, creative, and transformative ideas in the best lessons of the New Deal tradition of worker rights and economic empowerment. The Roosevelt Network facilitates a next generation of leaders with the tools to imagine transformative ideas and the skills to translate those ideas into action.”



— **Darrick Hamilton**, *Roosevelt Institute Fellow and Henry Cohen Professor of Economics and Urban Policy at The New School*

“I helped found the Network after the 2004 election, when students felt like the Democratic Party had no big ideas that spoke to our generation. We realized that other students on our campus and other campuses had the same idea and decided to work together. Watching the success that flowed from that decision has informed how I think about collaboration and coalitions to this day.”



— **Suzanne Kahn**, *Roosevelt Institute Managing Director, Research and Policy (Yale University '07)*

“The thoughtful and brilliant people across the Roosevelt Network have taught me how to move from the bleachers of democracy onto the playing field and inspired me to engage others in government and civic participation. My time in Roosevelt is why I now work in local government.”



— **Rajiv Narayan**, *Public Rights Policy Fellow, Oakland City Attorney's Office (University of California, Davis '12)*

ROOSEVELT TIMELINE

- **2004:** Frustrated by the outcome of the 2004 presidential election, college students form the nation's first student-driven policy think tank.



- **2005:** Held first Hyde Park conference at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum.

- **2010:** Launched "Think2040," a program that envisions "the world we want to inherit in 30 years."



- **2013:** Initiated ReThinking Communities, working with universities to promote broadly shared economic progress.

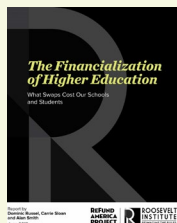
- **2016:** Surveyed young people on their vision for change in the Next Generation for 2016 Blueprint.



- **2019:** Relaunched the Alumni Board of Advisors.



- **2015:** Network receives a MacArthur Award; instituted alumni @ Hyde Park.
- **2015:** Established the Financialization of Higher Education program.



- **2018:** Established the Forge Fellowship in memory of Reese Neader.

- **2020:** Celebrated our 15th birthday with Stacey Abrams in Atlanta, Georgia.



Roosevelt Network alumni work in a variety of industries. Representative examples include:

- ✓ **Think tanks** — The Center for American Progress, Brennan Center for Justice, and the Bipartisan Policy Center.
- ✓ **All three branches of the federal government** — The Council of Economic Advisers, U.S. House Committee on Oversight & Reform, and federal district courts.
- ✓ **Local and state governments** — California State Assembly, New York City Department of Social Services, and Nebraska State Senate.
- ✓ **Advocacy and nonprofit organizations** — Sunrise Movement, Susan G. Komen Foundation, and Pay Our Interns.
- ✓ **Social enterprise and consulting firms** — Uncharted, McKinsey, and Boston Consulting Group.



STUDENT PROGRAMMING

Student Fellowships

- **EMERGING FELLOWS** The Emerging Fellowship is a year-long, paid policy fellowship through which students engage in local policy research and advocacy.

2020 - 2021

EMERGING FELLOWS:

100% FROM PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

100% FEMALE

50% POC

- **Sadiya Khan (Arizona State University '21):** Applying police abolition theory and frameworks to reimagine the role of campus police at Arizona State University.
- **Brittanny Judson (Agnes Scott College '21):** Researching the relationship between utility costs and health insurance for poor and working class families in the South.
- **Vivian Tran (University of Texas, Dallas '23):** Expanding access to dental care for people with disabilities across Texas.
- **Aditi Madhusudan (University of Georgia '23):** Increasing SNAP and WIC enrollment in Georgia by streamlining program eligibility screenings, and integrating food insecurity screening questionnaires across health care facilities.

- **FORGE FELLOWS** The Forge Fellowship was established in 2018 to honor the legacy of former Roosevelt Network staff member Reese Neader. The fellowship provides students an understanding of how they can contribute their skills to the progressive movement. Each fellow is paired with an alumni mentor and also works one-on-one with staff.

“In a down year like 2020, meeting [my mentor] Daniel was incredibly uplifting to me. We connected through our shared experiences and life tastes, and my resiliency alongside his advice have developed me professionally in ways I never knew before.”

— **Titus K. Kariuki**, Forge Fellow (University of Washington '22)

■ FINANCIALIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROJECT

The Roosevelt Network's Financialization of Higher Education project has given hundreds of undergraduates the opportunity to examine the significant shifts in financial management at their institutions. Since 2016, we have:

- ✓ **Conducted research at 15+ universities** and published six mini-reports
- ✓ **Produced two comprehensive case studies** at Michigan State University and University of Cincinnati
- ✓ **Trained students** in economic and policy research



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“Young people are the foundation of the progressive movement, and youth-serving organizations like the Roosevelt Network drive it. The Roosevelt Network invested in me as a young organizer, and provided me with the framework to push for structural change — the same framework I use in my work today.”

— **Andrea Sosa**, former Co-Executive Director at Young People For (Goucher College '16)

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“The Financialization of Higher Ed project showed me how economic and policy research could help push toward a more just society and provided me with the tools and confidence to pursue research as a career.”

— **Dominic Russel**, PhD Candidate, Harvard Business School (University of Michigan '16)

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**10
IDEAS**

10 Ideas is our annual journal of scalable and visionary student-generated ideas tackling today's most pressing issues.



ROOSEVELTERS IN ACTION

Roosevelt @ University of Illinois, Chicago: Students successfully advocated to “ban the box”, ending a requirement for students to disclose prior criminal history via the common application.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS | 2020

Tony Lapiz: Legislative Director, Oregon Secretary of State: Supporting community-centric policy in Oregon.

PORTLAND, OREGON | HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY 2015

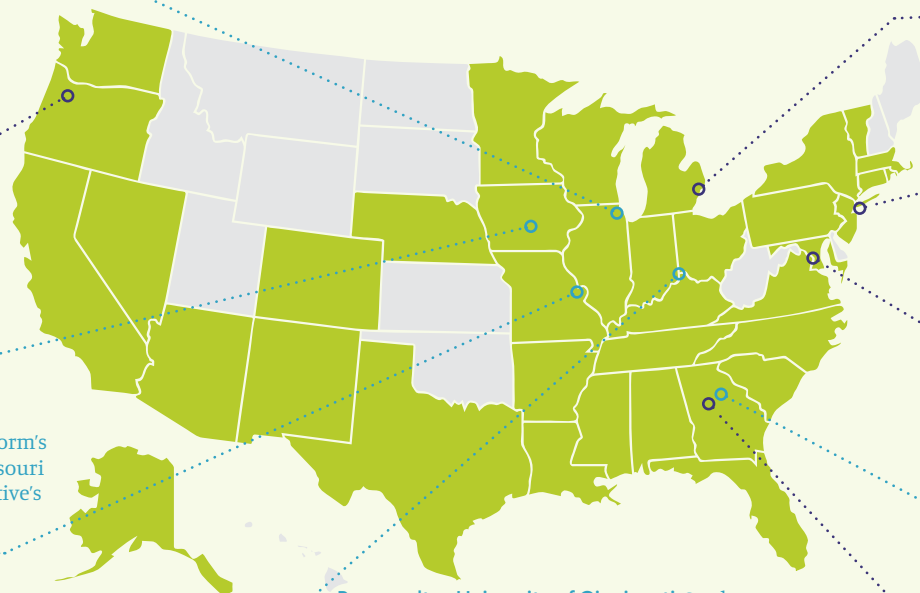
Roosevelt @ Drake University: Students are working with a state legislative director on a public restroom access bill, using the lens of people with disabilities or chronic illness.

DES MOINES, IOWA | 2020

Roosevelt @ Washington University in St. Louis: 2019 Summer Fellow Luke Ehrenstorm's research on unfair labor practices in Missouri was published in the Prison Policy Initiative's research collection.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI | 2020

- Alumni Features
- Roosevelt Network State Chapters
- Student Policy Projects



Roosevelt @ University of Cincinnati: Students published a case study on the influence of the financial sector within the university system.

CINCINNATI, OHIO | 2020

Cory Connolly: Vice President of Policy, Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council: Leading Michigan's green energy charge.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN | MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY 2010

Brianna Cea: Founder, Generation Vote & President of OCA-NY: Advocating for youth voting rights and the AAPI Community.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK | SUNY BINGHAMTON 2018

Tarsi Dunlop & Zach Komes: Co-Founders, Livability 2202: Supporting community-centric initiatives to tackle Washington D.C.'s housing crisis.

WASHINGTON D.C. | MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE 2008 & GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY 2016

Roosevelt @ University of Georgia: Former Emerging Fellow Tarun Ramish advanced access to opioid treatment in Georgia jails preventing recidivism.

ATHENS, GEORGIA | 2020

Nneka Ewulonu: SPARK Reproductive Justice Fellow: Addressing barriers to comprehensive health care access in Georgia and throughout the South.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA | UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA 2016

“There is almost nothing more fundamentally empowering than to know people are listening to you, to know that your ideas and your voice matter. The 10 Ideas journal does this, and it serves as an essential effort for those who are not consistently given the space to be heard.”

—**Michelle Tafur**, Security Cooperation Analyst, Booz Hamilton (University of Hartford, '09)



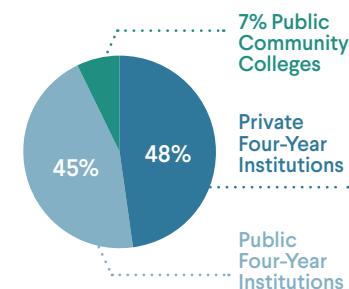
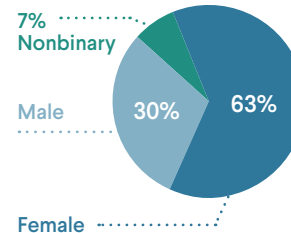
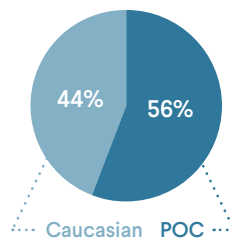
The Network has published student policy memos in our annual 10 Ideas journal since 2008. A collection of 10 Ideas journals can be found on the Network's website.

INSTITUTIONS:
CHAPTERS
& STUDENTS

64% AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

36% AT PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS



HOW ROOSEVELT ALUMNI ARE REWRITING THE RULES

Our alumni community carries the Roosevelt Network's values and mission into the professional world. Alumni leverage the powerful relationships, tools, and skills gained in the Network to build progressive power, serve the public interest, and mentor Network students.

An intellectual home for young professionals

- **Engaged alumni in progressive policy issues** through topical webinar series. This year, we reached over 170 alumni through 12 webinars.
- **Organized six alumni associations to build progressive infrastructure**, including in: Boston, New York City, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Dallas, and San Francisco.
- **Hosted seven book club discussions with over 80 alumni.** Expert facilitators included Roosevelt Institute Fellows and descendants of the New Deal-era policymakers.
- **Trained 15+ alumni on nonviolent communication practices** and 35+ on writing op-eds.
- **Launched four affinity groups, connecting 80+ alumni** of shared identities and backgrounds for support.

- **This year's Alumni @ Hyde Park was virtual and our largest conference ever**, with over 100 participants. It featured:

- ✓ **A panel of alumni speakers who worked in the Obama White House**
- ✓ **A panel featuring alumni who are supporting their communities' COVID-19 response.**



ALUMNI GIVE BACK

Alumni serve as thought partners and expert advisors for student-driven policy projects. In 2020, 95 alumni volunteered to assist students on *10 Ideas* policy memos.

"I'm proud to be a part of a community that continues to make a significant positive impact, advocating and shaping policies that promote equity, opportunity, and fairness."



— **Joe Eastman**, Director of Shelter Operations Budget at NYC Department of Social Services (CUNY Hunter College '10)

Last summer, alumnus Joe Swanson (Wake Forest University '14) gave 11 Roosevelt students the opportunity to craft creative solutions to address how the prison industrial complex is harming North Texas.

"I was unbelievably excited to connect with students to help my organization. It took only a few short weeks for several teams of students to send in policy memos that helped fuel the demands we are advocating for today."



— **Joe Swanson**, Community Organizer at Faith in Texas (Wake Forest University '14)

Alumni offer career guidance. Last summer, the Network facilitated over 30 informational interviews between alumni who graduated during the Great Recession and students from the Class of 2020.



Alumni Profiles: A Snapshot of Roosevelt Alumni

CHARSAREE (CICI) SLOMKA (School of International Training '08) is a Public Affairs Associate for the U.S. Embassy in Kingston, Jamaica. She previously taught English in Japan, worked in emergency management and preparedness for the District of Columbia government and the Senate Sergeant at Arms in the U.S. Capitol, and was a Political Affairs Associate at the U.S. Embassy in Cotonou, Benin. As an alumnus, she is a seasoned *10 Ideas* grader and an avid supporter of Rooseveltters interested in foreign policy.



“The Roosevelt Network is unique in that it offers genuine connections in parallel with opportunities to elevate your voice in the progressive space. Roosevelt taught me that it makes a difference when there are people in the room who are advocating for different ideas and perspectives.”

— Charsaree (Cici) Slomka



KEYONTAY HUMPHRIES (Kalamazoo College '08) is the Strategy Manager for Detroit City Council member Raquel Castaneda-Lopez, District 6. She has a rich history collaborating with municipalities and nonprofit law firms — such as the American Civil Liberties Union and Southern Poverty Law Center — on protecting marginalized peoples and building public power. Keyontay helped found and lead the Roosevelt @ Kalamazoo College chapter, gaining invaluable organizing experience. As an alumnus, she has continually sought out Rooseveltters as a means to shape the future, volunteering as a *10 Ideas* editor, an affinity group champion, and lead facilitator for several Network workshops.



“Roosevelt opened a window into looking at my community from the policy lens and taught me a priceless frame: that big ideas aren't about what we do tomorrow, but what we can do years from now. I have never abandoned that way of thinking.”

— Keyontay Humphries



KEVIN POWERS (University of California, Davis '08) is a Senior Consultant for the California State Assembly Committee on Higher Education and in his 13th year working for the state legislature. Prior to joining the Committee, Kevin spent eight years as a Legislative Aide, Legislative Director, and Select Committee Consultant, where he managed over 30 proposals either signed into law or incorporated into the state budget. Kevin's time as a member of the Roosevelt @ UC-Davis chapter helped him hone critical policy skills that prepared him for a career in public service.



“As a college student, Roosevelt gave me this amazing group of peers throughout the country to collaborate with and learn from. Today, I am inspired by the Roosevelt community — still committed to public service, and still committed to using our brains and our feet to shape this country into a more perfect Union.”

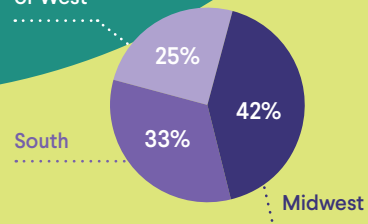
— Kevin Powers



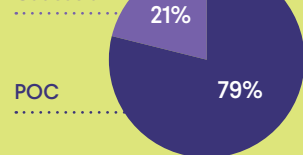
SINCE ITS INCEPTION,
ALUMNI HAVE HELPED RAISE
\$47,508
FOR THE FORGE FELLOWSHIP

2020 FORGE FELLOW DEMOGRAPHICS

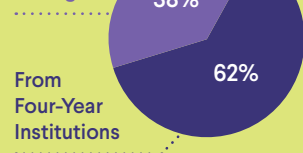
Mid-Atlantic
or West



Caucasian



From
Community
Colleges



THE FORGE FELLOWSHIP

A yearlong paid fellowship for students at public universities and community colleges without a Roosevelt chapter, the Forge Fellowship provides a rigorous curriculum, access to resources, and one-on-one mentorship with an alumni.

In our second Forge cohort, fellow Mariah Hanson (North Hennepin Community College '21) wrote and produced a play supporting Indigenous communities with the support of her alumni mentor, Carley Przystac (University of Massachusetts, Amherst '16). The play focused on the tie between fossil fuel development and missing, murdered, and trafficked Indigenous women.



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“It is an absolute privilege to watch the next generation of
Roosevelt leadership rise and continue pushing for progress.”

— *Carley Przystac, Civil Engineer (University of Massachusetts, Amherst '16)*



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2018-2019 FORGE FELLOWS

Sadiya Khan (Arizona State University '21) and **Nia Skinner-Miller** (Michigan State University '21) are student leaders in the Network, serving as a 2020-21 Emerging Fellow and Chair of the Student Board of Advisors, respectively.



2019-2020 FORGE FELLOWS

Amber Marsh (Northwestern Michigan University '21) and **Mariah Hanson** (North Hennepin Community College '21) are also now student leaders, serving as the 2020-21 Community College Organizers.



2020-2021 FORGE FELLOWS

Marlon McBride (Virginia State University '21), **Mayuhk Datta** (Mississippi State University '22), **Tyler Tucker** (Valdosta State University '21) and **Titus Kariuki** (University of Washington, Seattle '22) have established the Network's newest chapters at their universities.

Honoring the Legacy of Roosevelt Alumnus and Staff Member Reese Nader



The Forge Fellowship launched in 2018 to honor the memory of Reese Nader. Reese was a community activist, an entrepreneurial leader, and a National Policy Director of the Roosevelt Network. Like our Forge Fellows, he was dedicated to building progressive power in diverse and often overlooked communities. A graduate of Denison University, Reese joined the Obama campaign as a state Youth Vote Director before serving with the Roosevelt Network in New York City. He then returned to his hometown of Columbus, Ohio to found Forge Columbus and encourage civic innovation in the state. The Forge Fellowship continues Reese's legacy by empowering a new generation of leaders like Reese who envision and push for progressive policy change in their communities.

“Growing up in a town of 600 people and graduating from my public high school class of 19, my student experience with Roosevelt exposed me to a national community of peers that I'd never have met otherwise. Some of those folks became dear friends, including Reese Nader. Forge means so much to me because it is fundamentally about including students that aren't always a part of the progressive dialogue in national discussions and communities — and it's even more meaningful because it is a program that embodies the ethos and spirit of my late friend.”



— **Cory Connolly**, Vice President of Policy at Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council (Michigan State University '10)

THE ROOSEVELT INSTITUTE AS A HOME

Alumni have the opportunity to bring their experience full circle by lending their expertise to strengthen the Roosevelt Institute family of programs and institutions.

Alumni Board of Advisors

The Alumni Board of Advisors (ABA) represents the diverse voices of our alumni community and advises Roosevelt staff on community building, professional development, and fundraising initiatives.

Serving three-year terms, Advisors help ensure programming is impact driven and accessible. In addition to advising staff, the ABA elevates alumni in the progressive ecosystem and plans our annual alumni conference.

2020 ALUMNI BOARD OF ADVISORS

- Adam Jutha | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | '13
- Amy Littleton | Harding University | '12
- Anita Sonawane | CUNY Queens College | '10
- Carl Amritt | American University | '17
- Charsaree (Cici) Slomka | School of International Training | '09
- Eric Mitzenmacher | Stanford University | '08
- Jasdeep Johl | University of California, Berkeley | '08
- Jeanne Tilley | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | '09
- Garrett Shor | SUNY Binghamton University | '18
- Raaga Kalva | Carnegie Mellon University | '18
- Tyler O'Connor | Emory University | '11
- Will Gabelman | University of Tennessee, Knoxville | '18

Network Alumnus on the Roosevelt Institute Board of Directors

Network alumni have served on the Roosevelt Institute Board of Directors, providing vital support to the entire Roosevelt team — whether it's digging into strategy, advising on finance and investment decisions, or supporting fundraising and events.

ALUMNI CURRENTLY SERVING ON THE BOARD

- Adam Connor | George Washington University | '06
- Jasdeep Johl | University of California, Berkeley | '08
- Kate Brandt | Brown University | '07

Network Alumni on the FDR Library Board of Trustees

In 2020, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum welcomed two Network alumni to the Library Trustees. Anita Sonawane (CUNY Queens College '11) and Tyler O'Connor (Emory University '11) joined two dozen individuals passionate about uplifting Franklin and Eleanor's legacy.

"As Eleanor Roosevelt's granddaughter, I'm forever moved by how the Roosevelt legacy continues to inspire today's leaders. We are thrilled to welcome our first Network alumni to the FDR Library Trustees."

— **Nancy Roosevelt**, Chair of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum Board of Trustees and Roosevelt Institute Board Member



Network Alumni Working at the Roosevelt Institute

A first-generation college student from the University of Illinois, Chicago, Ivan Cazarin currently is a Research Associate at the Roosevelt Institute. Ivan was active in Roosevelt @ UIC, helping to organize on-campus initiatives like UIC's "ban the box" campaign and the 2019 student climate strikes. He was published in *10 Ideas* and served as the New Chapter Coordinator for the Midwest region in 2019-20. In his current role at Roosevelt, Ivan has worked with some of his policy heroes, including Bharat Ramamurti, Deputy Director at the National Economic Council.

"The Roosevelt Network gave me the agency to pursue my own solutions to problems I experienced, as well as the support and confidence to navigate a professional landscape often dominated by people who look nothing like me or my community."

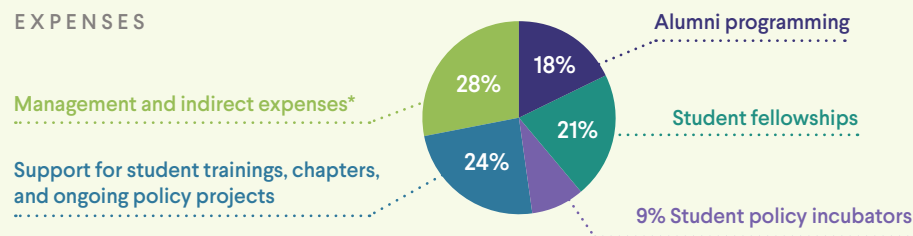


— **Ivan Cazarin**, Corporate Power Research Associate at the Roosevelt Institute (University of Illinois, Chicago) '20

THE NETWORK BUDGET: WHERE DO YOUR DOLLARS GO?

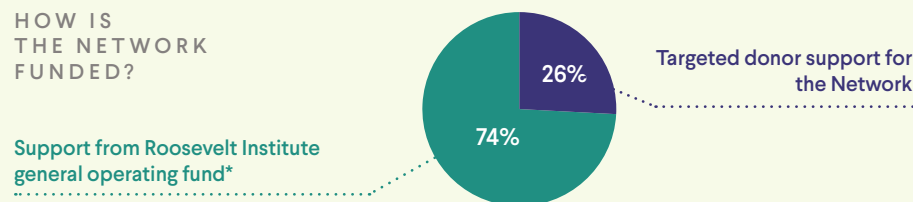
The Roosevelt Network is a lean run program, efficiently allocating funds raised to serve students and alumni. Our programming runs by academic calendar and financial reporting is by fiscal year. The 2020 annual budget was \$1.1 million, which supported the following program areas:

EXPENSES



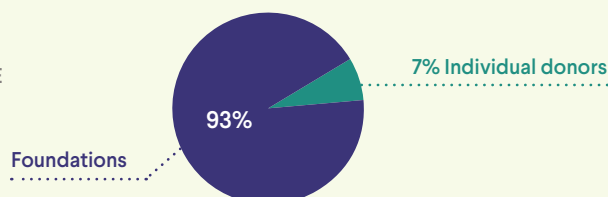
* Management and indirect expenses relate to the infrastructure the Roosevelt Institute provides to support network operations, including back-office support, office space, HR, equipment, staff training, website maintenance, etc.

HOW IS THE NETWORK FUNDED?



* Roosevelt Institute's general operating fund fills in any gap between operating expenses and dedicated program funding.

WHO ARE THE NETWORK'S CORE SUPPORTERS?



LIST OF ALUMNI DONORS*

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| • Adam Connor | • Emily Apple | • Neil Proto |
| • Alexandra Edquist | • Eric Mitzenmacher | • Peter Jipp |
| • Amish Shah | • Erik Singh | • Rajiv Narayan |
| • Amy Littleton | • Hilary Doe | • Robert Nelb |
| • Ariel Smilowtiz | • Jasdeep Johl | • Rocky Cole |
| • Bradley Bosserman | • Jeanne Tilley | • Sarah Brown |
| • Brent Caldwell | • Joe Eastman | • Tarsi Dunlop |
| • Carley Przystac | • John Ford | • Will Gabelman |
| • Cassie Coravos | • Kevin Hilke | • Winston Lofton |
| • Christine Curella | • Lindsey Miller | • Zach Komes |
| • Cory Connolly | • Madelyn Schorr | • Zachary Agush |
| • David Peralman | • Mario Goetz | |
| • Dylan Welch | • Monika Johnson | |

*Donors who gave \$500 and above

"I support Roosevelt to help make sure progressive voices have a seat at the table in our nation's policy debates."

— **Erik Singh**, Data Analyst (Denison University '11)

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"I give to the Roosevelt Network — and encourage others to do the same — because I want other young adults to have the same developmental experience I had for decades to come, and because I truly believe that we will be better off in the long run if power is both diffuse and responsive to the needs of each generation as it comes of political age."

— **Eric Mitzenmacher**, Partner at Mayer Brown (Stanford University '08)

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ABOUT NETWORK STAFF

KATIE KIRCHNER, NATIONAL DIRECTOR:

Katie Kirchner works to realize the Network's vision for changing who writes the rules. She oversees student and alumni programming, and builds relationships across the progressive movement. An alumna of Roosevelt @ American University, she has been on staff of the Network for 5+ years in various roles before this one.



ALYSSA BEAUCHAMP, SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER:

Alyssa Beauchamp manages the Network's fellowship programs, *10 Ideas* publication process, and the Network's training curriculum. Standing on the shoulders of her Queer and Latinx ancestors, Alyssa applies her graduate degree in higher education, experience at national civil rights advocacy nonprofits, and perspective as a progressive movement builder to the Roosevelt Network.



EAMON ROSS, SENIOR PROGRAM ASSOCIATE:

Eamon Ross leads the Roosevelt Network's leadership and alumni engagement. Prior to joining Roosevelt full-time, Eamon was a 2017-2018 Emerging Fellow for the Roosevelt Network.



ELIJAH WILSON, POLICY ASSOCIATE:

Elijah Wilson manages the Network's student policy coordinators and student policy projects. Prior to joining Roosevelt, Elijah worked at a local educational nonprofit in the city of Philadelphia.



GET INVOLVED

Ideas don't stop being powerful and peers don't stop serving as collaborators when you graduate. Whether you're fresh out of college or well into your career — there is a place for you in the alumni community.

Learn more at rooseveltinstitute.org/roosevelt-network. Join us and donate today to help sustain and grow the Roosevelt Network. Together, we can create progressive change in our communities and rewrite the rules of our democracy.