

# THE HARKIN INSTITUTE

## Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2018

**The Harkin Institute for Public Policy  
& Citizen Engagement exists to inform  
citizens, inspire creative cooperation,  
and catalyze change on issues of social  
justice, fairness, and opportunity.**

MISSION STATEMENT

## Letter from the Executive Director

The Harkin Institute turned five this past year, and this notable milestone brought with it a great deal of reflection upon our accomplishments to date and anticipation for all we have planned in the years to come. The Institute has seen remarkable growth since its founding at Drake University in 2013, and this year was no exception. We celebrated a significant number of firsts this year, thanks in large part to your generosity and enthusiasm.

In March, The Harkin Institute released its inaugural Harkin on Wellness Report, which highlights the work of 11 community health and wellness initiatives across the country that exemplify best practices for how communities and organizations can invest in health. The designees were selected from more than 60 submissions, based not only on their individual success but also their ability to be replicated by other communities. We shared results of the report at a special program in May at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

At the same time, the Institute hosted its first Harkin on Wellness Symposium, which gathered more than 300 health care providers, public health officials, educators and members of the public for a robust, day-long discussion on preventive care and policy.

In the area of disability policy, The Harkin Institute welcomed two researchers to work as our first George H.W. Bush Disability Policy Research Fellows. You can read more about the work of Dr. Amy Hebert Knopf and Dr. Xuan Zheng in the pages to come.

After two years of research and production, The Harkin Institute published an accessibility map for the Drake University campus. This was a labor of love on the part of our student employees that will serve as an invaluable tool for students, faculty, and visitors alike. This map will be updated regularly to reflect changes and greater accessibility on campus.

I am proud of all that has been accomplished in our first five years at The Harkin Institute and look forward to continuing our efforts to advance the legacy of Senator Tom Harkin and his work in the years to come.



Joseph Jones,  
Executive Director



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*The Harkin Institute's advisory committees are comprised of experts in their key policy areas. These diverse groups help define the Institute's research agendas.*

## LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

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Senior Fellow, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Milken Institute; former Chief Economist and Economic Adviser to Vice President Joe Biden

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Founder and Program Director, University of Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine

## DISABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE

*In 2018, The Harkin Institute established a disability policy committee to provide input and help direct the Institute's research and programming in the area of people with disabilities and disability employment.*

KELLY BUCKLAND

Executive Director, National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)

CANDACE CABLE

Nine-time Paralympian and leader in the adaptive sports movement

CAROLINE CASEY

Founder of Binc, social entrepreneur, and speaker

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Harkin Institute disability policy research fellow; associate professor and program coordinator, St. Cloud State University

XUAN ZHENG (Ex-officio member)

Harkin Institute disability policy research fellow; associate professor, Chongqing Normal University in Chongqing, China; visiting professor, St. Cloud State University

# STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

*The Harkin Institute employs more than a dozen highly-motivated undergraduates each semester to organize and execute projects alongside full-time staff.*

A position at The Harkin Institute is more than a part-time job, it is an opportunity to do real-world work. Student employees take part in a weekly professional development series where they learn about everything from writing white papers to protecting their digital footprint. The series often features experts on important issues, from etiquette to wrongful convictions and trips to tour the State Historical Building Vault and the Ape Cognition and Conservation Initiative.

## **FALL 2017 GRADUATES**

Mollie Clark  
Keegan Gallery  
Margot Stevens

## **SPRING 2018 GRADUATES**

Annelise Escher  
Dustin Eubanks  
Annie Matte  
Gabrielle Miller  
Madeline Miller  
Olivia Young





## ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



### **RYAN MCKEEVER ('17)** CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER

When I joined The Harkin Institute, it wasn't even a year old yet. I fell in love with the thought that I would get to build something, get involved in policy conversations and learn about different issue areas. I wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't worked at the Institute. I wouldn't have been able to move out to D.C. and get a job working on Capitol Hill as quickly as I did. All of the resources the Institute provided and the network it tapped me into was extremely valuable.



### **MOLLIE CLARK ('17)** PUBLIC POLICY ASSOCIATE, MINNESOTA BRIAN INJURY ALLIANCE

My favorite thing I worked on at The Harkin Institute was the infographic project. I got to see all sides of it as I was growing as a worker. The content we were able to produce with the design team was really amazing. It really was about making policy accessible for people who can't sit down and read a 20-page legislative brief. For me, that was really important because it meant breaking down the barriers between politics and policy and bringing that to actual citizens who live and experience those policies. That set me on the path of pursuing policy and inspired me to keep doing that after I graduated.

*The Harkin Institute alumni program now boasts 14 graduates working across the country as underwriters and lobbyists, in public service and for nonprofits.*

# D.C. EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Helping Drake University undergraduates pursue their goals of working in Washington, D.C., by helping to make valuable internships feasible financially.

The Harkin Institute D.C. Experience Scholarship was established in 2014 to honor Senator Harkin's legacy by providing financial assistance to Drake undergraduate students with financial need who have secured a summer internship in a congressional office, government agency, or non-profit organization in Washington, D.C.

The scholarship is designed to expose students to policymakers and the policymaking process, much as Senator Harkin experienced as an intern for Congressman Neal Smith in the summer of 1969, an experience that inspired Senator Harkin to pursue a career in public service. This scholarship is

funded in large part by the generosity of Senator Harkin's former staff members, many of whom benefited from their exposure to policymakers and policymaking in our nation's capital.

To date, The Harkin Institute has awarded eight scholarships.

# 2018 RECIPIENTS



## ANNA GABALSKI

OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN DAVE LOEBSACK

"Living and interning on the Hill has been a life-changing experience because my internship allows me to have access to briefings, hearings, and lectures. I am learning so much by attending these events. I think my favorite part of the job is giving tours of the Capitol. I just love the history behind the building and find myself feeling extraordinarily lucky to be able to walk the same halls as so many important people from history."



## LAUREN GOETZE

PEACE CORPS

"In just the past two weeks, I have learned an incredible amount from my internship, but also have gotten a chance to explore the city and have started to feel at home. Overall, my time here so far has been incredibly inspiring, and I cannot thank the Harkin Institute enough for making this experience possible."



## WYATT ANDERSON

LEADERSHIP AND THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY PROGRAM

"So much has happened, I have filled six notebooks, and I have written many op-eds, speeches, and presentations - both for my job at my internship and for this Leadership and the American Presidency Program."

# POLICY WORK

*The Harkin Institute assembles a diverse group of professionals, including policy directors and fellows, to facilitate cooperative, high-quality, nonpartisan research, analysis and education.*

At The Harkin Institute, we strive to improve the lives of all Americans by giving policymakers access to high-quality information and engaging citizens as active participants in the formation of public policy.

The Institute provides policymakers with nonpartisan, unbiased, and socially-diverse information. We are committed to giving policymakers access to high-quality information so they can make decisions rooted in fact-based policy.

We enhance the public's understanding of policy issues by facilitating interaction with

international thought leaders and a diverse array of fellow citizens.

The Harkin Institute encourages Drake University students to explore careers in public policy and social change by offering a variety of opportunities to gain real-world experience and interact with diverse leaders from around the world.

The Institute's research agenda is growing on a regular basis. We currently have fellows conducting research in the areas of labor and employment and people with disabilities.

## FELLOW RESEARCH: CHILD CARE CLIFF EFFECT



SHELLEY HORAK

Shelley Horak is a community health expert who is studying the child care cliff effect in Iowa and across the U.S., in partnership with the Iowa Department of Human Services. Horak and Harkin Institute student employees have been investigating how the cost of child care often inhibits full participation in the labor force for many families.

## GEORGE H.W. BUSH DISABILITY POLICY RESEARCH FELLOWS



AMY  
HEBERT KNOPF

Dr. Amy Hebert Knopf is an associate professor and program coordinator at St. Cloud State University. Hebert Knopf is completing research on the impact of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act on consumers of vocational rehabilitation.



XUAN ZHENG

Dr. Xuan Zheng is an associate professor at Chongqing Normal University in Chongqing, China, and a visiting professor at St. Cloud State University. Zheng is conducting a cross-cultural comparison of deaf education between the U.S. and China.



# HARKIN ON WELLNESS

*In spring 2018, The Harkin Institute released its inaugural Harkin on Wellness (HOW) Report and held its first Harkin on Wellness Symposium on preventive care and policy.*

*Details of the HOW Report were released at a special program at The National Press Club in Washington D.C.*

## HARKIN ON WELLNESS REPORT

The inaugural Harkin on Wellness Report highlights the work of 11 community health and wellness initiatives across the country that exemplify best practices for how communities and organizations can invest in health. The designees were selected from more than 60 submissions based not only on their individual success but also their ability to be replicated by other communities.

The organizations selected have agreed to share their guidance and expertise with others across the country looking to make a difference in the health of their own communities.



## HARKIN ON WELLNESS SYMPOSIUM

The Harkin Institute introduced its newest event to its annual slate of programming in March 2018. The Harkin on Wellness Symposium will be an annual gathering to discuss timely topics associated with wellness and nutrition.

The 2018 Symposium addressed the importance of preventive care and policy. The day-long event gathered more than 300 experts and members and featured a keynote address by Dr. Andrew Weil along with presentations by representatives of local health initiatives and organizations.



# ARCHIVES

The Tom Harkin Collection includes 800 boxes and 2.5 terabytes of records. More than half of it has been processed since it arrived in January 2015.

Since the Harkin Papers arrived at Drake University, archival staff have fielded more than 230 combined reference questions from researchers, including K-12 students, PhD candidates, journalists, and the general public.

In 2018, several new components of the collection were opened for public use, including Populist Caucus files and over five more boxes of Legislative Working Files related to Agriculture, Disability, Health, and Labor files from the second session of the 105th Congress.



# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

*Our friends of The Harkin Institute make what we do here possible. We thank them for their generous support of our mission. This is an honor roll of donors who have made a gift in fiscal year 18 (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018.)*

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The Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Citizen Engagement was founded on the premise that good public policy is best achieved when policymakers have access to high-quality information, political processes are open and well-understood, and citizens are informed and active participants.

Individuals like you make the work of The Harkin Institute possible. Join us today and help continue the legacy of Senator Tom Harkin.

To support The Harkin Institute, contact us in person, by phone, or online.

**HarkinInstitute.org**

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Stay up to date on developments and events at The Harkin Institute by following us online and on social media.



@HarkinAtDrake



[harkininstitute.org](http://harkininstitute.org)



The Harkin Institute  
for Public Policy & Citizen Engagement



The Harkin Institute is located at Drake University. Established in 1881, Drake is recognized as one of the finest institutions of higher learning in the Midwest. A mid-sized, private university in Des Moines, Iowa, Drake offers the benefits and resources of a larger institution along with the advantages of intimate class sizes and close personal relationships.

Drake's mission is to provide an exceptional learning environment that prepares students for meaningful personal lives, professional accomplishments, and responsible global citizenship. The Drake experience is distinguished by collaborative learning among students, faculty, and staff and by the integration of the liberal arts and sciences with professional preparation.

Our inspiration is that together we transform lives and strengthen communities.