

Dear MORPC Hiring Committee,

I am writing to express my strong interest in the MORPC Local Government Summer Internship Program. I am currently an undergraduate at The Ohio State University majoring in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) and Public Management, Leadership, and Policy, with minors in Security and Intelligence and Nonprofit Management. With extensive coursework in public affairs, hands-on experience through internships and community engagement roles, and a clear career path toward public service and law, I am eager for the opportunity to contribute to and learn from local government professionals throughout Central Ohio.

My academic and professional experiences have prepared me well for the responsibilities described in this internship program. As a Community Collaboration intern with Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio and as a former constituent aide at the Ohio House of Representatives, I have developed skills in public communication, stakeholder engagement, policy research, and project management. At Habitat, I supported volunteer programs, coordinated data-driven community initiatives, and helped design outreach and engagement materials. These experiences translate well to assignments such as community surveys, residential data analysis, event planning, and public-facing communication. In my legislative role, I regularly conducted policy research, communicated with constituents, and prepared reports to support the work of state representatives. These responsibilities mirror the legislative research and council-facing assignments that previous MORPC interns have completed.

Through my public affairs coursework, including civic engagement, public policy analysis, and institutional economics, I have built a strong foundation in understanding how local and regional governments function, collaborate, and serve communities. I am particularly excited about the opportunity to gain experience with regional planning systems and tools, attend Commission meetings, and work closely with a MORPC mentor. These experiences align closely with my long-term goal of working in public service, specifically in law and local governance, where I hope to address issues related to housing, community development, and equitable access to public resources.

I am dependable, detail-oriented, and passionate about strengthening communities through intentional and people centered public management. I would welcome the chance to bring my enthusiasm for public service, my research and

communication skills, and my experience working with diverse community stakeholders to a host organization within MORPC.

Thank you for your consideration. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss how my background and interests align with the goals of the summer internship program. I look forward to the possibility of contributing to MORPC's mission and supporting local governments across Central Ohio.

Sincerely,

**Caris Lantz**

# Caris Lantz

## Education

**Ohio State University** | *Columbus OH*

May 2027

*B.A. Philosophy, Politics and Economics*

*B.A. Public Management, Leadership and Policy*

**Minors:** Security and Intelligence, and Nonprofit Management

**Honors:** The Johnson Controls Inc. Student Scholarship, Daniel G. Amstutz International Studies, Scholarship, Dean's list all semesters, Provost Scholarship

**Involvement:** Phi Alpha Delta, Buckeye Mock Trial, International Affairs Scholars, Cru at OSU

**Study Abroad:** Genocide and its Aftermath in Rwanda, *Kigali, Rwanda* (Summer 2024)

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## Experience

**Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio** | *Canton, OH*

May-Aug 2025

*Program and Development Intern*

- Ensured compliance with homeowner agreements by tracking sweat-equity hours and volunteer safety adherence, reducing organizational liability risk.
- Authored policy and communication materials clarifying liability standards and partner-family responsibilities, enhancing transparency and accountability.
- Analyzed homeowner survey data and produced an executive report that shaped program decisions for 500+ partner families, advancing equitable community development.

**The Ohio House of Representatives** | *Columbus, OH*

Jan-Dec 2024

*Constituent Aid, Legislative Page*

- Researched Ohio statutes and regulations to resolve constituent casework on unemployment, housing, and healthcare, ensuring accurate legal interpretation.
  - Drafted legislative correspondence and policy briefs that translated complex legal frameworks into accessible language for representatives and constituents.
  - Identified recurring constituent concerns to inform legislative priorities, contributing to data-driven recommendations for state policy development.
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## Leadership and Service

**GlenOak High School Speech and Debate** | *Canton, OH*

Sept 2023-Jun 2025

- Coached 24 high school students in Public Forum and Lincoln-Douglas debate, developing skills in argument construction, logic, and advocacy.
- Guided students in legal-style research and precedent-based argumentation, strengthening analytical depth, public speaking and competitive performance.

**Cru at Ohio State** | *Columbus, OH*

Sept 2023-Present

- Led weekly small-group discussions and mentored peers in a 500+ member campus ministry, developing skills in facilitation, conflict resolution, and ethical decision-making within a diverse student community.



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[www.morpc.org](http://www.morpc.org)

## 2026 Intern Reference Check

Intern Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How long have you known the candidate?
2. What was your relationship with the candidate? (e.g., faculty or work supervisor)
3. Does the candidate work cooperatively and collaboratively with others? Please give an example.
4. How dependable is the candidate?
5. How well does the candidate finish projects/responsibilities they have begun? Please rate and explain.

**William Murdock, AICP**  
*Executive Director*

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
*Chair*

**Ben Kessler**  
*Vice Chair*

**Laurie Jadwin**  
*Secretary*



6. Is there any additional information you would like to share about the candidate?

7. What is your recommendation for this candidate for MORPC's 2026 Local Government Summer Internship program?

