“When I first arrived at the IOP I had a narrow definition of politics. The IOP has provided me with a lifelong community of people who are all working for the public good in far more diverse ways than I could ever have imagined.”

– Andrew Mamo, AB ’19
Civic Engagement offers hands-on programming for students to develop as leaders and deepen their public service experience through exploring Chicago and beyond.

**Bridge Writing Workshop** is a partnership with the Cook County Jail where students lead weekly creative writing workshops for incarcerated individuals.

**Bridging the Divide** is a public service leadership program bringing urban and rural students together to listen and learn from each other, challenge each other’s perspectives, and find shared solutions to the issues our communities are facing.

**The Gate** is an independent student-run magazine focused on politics and policy at the local, national, and international levels.

**Leaders of Color** is a student-run leadership development program for first- and second-year students of color. LoC also organizes a Politics and Identity speaker series that encourages critical conversations about race, politics, and leadership.

**Spectrum** aims to connect and empower LGBTQ+ students with opportunities to expand their leadership skills and passion for public service.

**TechTeam** provides opportunities for students to develop tools and digital media supporting the needs of local non-profit organizations.

**W+** works to provide training, mentorship, and resources to women and people of underrepresented genders interested in public service.

**Local Treks** offer opportunities to gain multiple perspectives on issues facing Chicago communities.

Career Development inspires students to pursue careers in public service through practical experience, workforce training, career advising, and access to a far-reaching professional network.

**Paid Internships**
Each year the IOP provides 300 paid academic-year and summer internships in the U.S. and across the globe, allowing students to pursue opportunities in politics, policymaking, public service, and other related fields.

**Stipends**
Apply for $2,500 stipends to support public service-related internships.

**Treks**
Travel with the IOP to Washington, D.C., New York, San Francisco, and more. Each trip offers students the chance to meet with leaders, learn about organizations, and explore a wide range of careers.

**Career Advising**
Get advice on how to develop a professional network, build your credentials, and pursue a career in your chosen field.

The IOP hosts forums to provide students contact with prominent guests spanning a vast spectrum of ideological, professional, and geographic backgrounds. Recent guests include U.S. Defense Secretary Gen. James Mattis; U.S. Rep. Ayanna Pressley, (D-MA); former Deputy Director of National Intelligence Sue Gordon; former White House Press Secretary Dana Perino; U.N. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield; Admiral William McRaven; and more!