PRESS RELEASE

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Release Date:
7/2/2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rachel Carson Council Expands National Environmental Leadership Fellowship with Largest-Ever Cohort

Thirty-nine students from across the United States have joined the Rachel Carson Council's National Environmental Leadership Fellowship for a year-long fellowship supporting environmental action in their communities.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Rachel Carson Council (RCC) today announced the selection of its 2026–2027 cohort of National Environmental Leadership Fellows, welcoming 39 students from campuses across the United States.

The RCC National Environmental Leadership Fellowship identifies outstanding students with a passion for environmental education, organizing, and advocacy, and provides financial support to carry out projects and campaigns on behalf of RCC.

"The selection of our largest-ever cohort of National Environmental Leadership Fellows marks an exciting expansion of the program and the growing momentum of student-led environmental leadership nationwide," said **Bob Musil, RCC's President and CEO.**

Throughout the next year, each RCC Fellow receives hands-on mentorship and guidance to develop and implement their projects. Fellows also convene in Washington, D.C. for RCC's annual American Environmental Leadership Institute, where they build real-world advocacy skills through in-person training and engagement.

"These Fellows represent the best of campus-based environmental leadership," said **Diego Tovar, RCC's Director of Campus and Civic Engagement**. "They bring the energy, creativity, and commitment needed to strengthen communities and advance meaningful change."

Selected Presidential Fellows:

- Ava Kocher – Duke University
- Ashton Bailey – Duke University
- Jordan Ross – Duke University

- Zoe Farris – Duke University

Selected Fellows:

- Isha Raheja – Pomona College
- Kelis B. Johnson – Johns Hopkins University
- Carla Schmidt – Trinity College
- Rhiannon Danborn – University of Colorado
- Breanna Pitta – Trinity College
- Makenna Morrison Gary – University of Florida
- Sophie Holtzman – George Washington University
- Caitlin Neidow – Pitzer College
- Nathan Rubin – University of Miami
- Elizabeth Walsh – Shepherd University
- Maddie Coleman – SUNY ESF
- Miles Levesque – Drexel University
- Allison Tamas – Loyola University
- Jaxen Mason – North Carolina State University
- Ellie Lutz – Colorado State University
- Matthew Cherfane – UCLA
- Hannah Hayes – University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- Arya Upadhyay – University of Texas at Austin
- Alexandre Massip – University of Pittsburgh
- Lauren Agnew – Duke University
- Andrew O'Neal – West Virginia University
- Laila Gad – Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS)
- Sreya Mothukuri – University of Connecticut
- Maya Hunter – Duke University
- Victoria Lu – Yale School of Environment
- Bella Santos – UC Berkeley
- Ava Ciabattoni – Penn State University
- Maeve Dowling – West Virginia University
- Alexandria Pineda – Colorado State University
- Morgan Stamper – Howard University
- Grace Cammarata – Columbia University
- Madison Dickens – East Carolina University
- Charlotte Patty – UNC Chapel Hill
- Symone Franks – University of Colorado Boulder
- Lydia Farr – Duke University

The Rachel Carson Council offers two flagship fellowship programs that cultivate the next generation of environmental leaders. Together, these fellowships support dozens of students annually who are passionate about environmental justice, research, organizing, storytelling, and policy change.

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About Us
The Rachel Carson Council, founded in 1965, is the national environmental organization envisioned by Rachel Carson to carry on her work after her death. We promote Carson's ecological ethic that combines scientific concern for the environment and human health with a sense of wonder and reverence for all forms of life in order to build a more sustainable, just, and peaceful future.

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