

# A Warm Welcome to Our Newest CCED Research Assistants!

**Abigail Bies**



Graduating in Spring 2024 with double majors in Social Relations and Policy & Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy, Abigail Bies is also concurrently pursuing a Master of Public Policy.

In her new role at CCED, Ms. Bies will primarily support research on Community Benefits Plans and Community Benefits Agreements, aligning with her policy interests in income inequality, government transfer programs, and community development. She will also be offering technical and planning assistance to the Center’s biannual Thinkers and Doers forum to be held at the end of March on community benefits.

Dedicated to community service, she serves as a University Student Commissioner in the City of East Lansing, a position aimed at elevating student voices and working with both the City Council and staff to accomplish harmony and shared goals between permanent and student residents. Her past extracurricular involvement has offered knowledge into food assistance programs, drug policy inequities, and the intricacies of municipal governance.

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**Charlotte Peterson**



Charlotte Peterson joined the CCED team of research assistants in Spring ‘24. She is a soon-to-be-graduate of Michigan State’s Urban and Regional Planning undergraduate program with plans to pursue a master’s degree next year. Beyond academia, Charlotte enjoys exploring personal interests such as hiking and honing her culinary skills in the kitchen. She also has a love for travel and to discover new cities whenever the opportunity arises.

One of her roles at CCED is continuing research on the topic of construction and demolition debris diversion. Including a future update of the CCED’s previous publication, *A Guide to Local Ordinances: Deconstruction and the Management of C&D Material Waste*. Another of Charlotte’s roles at the Center for Community and Economic Development is continuing research on community benefit planning and community benefit agreements (CBAs). She has been preparing for upcoming "Thinkers and Doers" events with the topic of community benefit planning and supporting preparation for an AmeriCorps CBA member.

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**Kiera Tierney**



Kiera Tierney is a Junior at Michigan State University. She is studying international relations at James Madison College and is pursuing a double minor in business and political economy. Kiera is passionate about her studies and looks forward to using what she has learned to help communities recognize disparities in equity and to build strategies that help remove them. She believes enabling economic development in communities by sharing valued knowledge through collaborative and innovative methods is essential for ensuring fair and equitable management.

Kiera joined the CCED in February of 2024 and is working with Dr. LaMore to advance the Circular Economy initiative. Kiera plans to pursue a domestic and international public affairs career, ideally engaging in social, political, and economic issues to advocate for equality and justice. Kiera is excited about her work at the Center and hopes to continue to contribute to the pursuit of creating environmental and economic improvements.

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**Jenna Salhab**



Jenna Salhab is a research assistant for MSU’s Center for Community and Economic Development for Regional and Economic Innovation (REI). She is also a third-year Information Science major at Michigan State University with minors in Computer Science, Information Technology, and Graphic Design.

Jenna is primarily interested in the intersection of technology and social innovation, aiming to use her skills to drive positive change in community welfare and sustainable development. Outside her academic pursuits, Jenna is actively involved in student organizations, serving on the UX team for VIM Fashion Magazine and as secretary for AIGA, MSU’s graphic design club.

Her leadership in the Faircare Awareness campaign, which brought attention to health and healthcare disparities, exemplifies her commitment to impactful projects. Jenna is eager to deepen her knowledge in the field of technology-driven social change.

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