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OLSC Fellowship Prepares Students for State Government

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- Two Cedarville University political science students, Ryan Hennigan and Lauren Payne, are pursuing their dreams this summer. Both are participating in the Ohio Legislative Services Commission (OLSC) Fellowship in Columbus.

For the past 50 years, the OLSC Fellowship has chosen 20 students out of hundreds who apply to participate in the yearlong paid fellowship. This opportunity gives students practical experience in the legislative process.

“Students who go through the program not only get excellent training in policy, but they are very well prepared to step into a variety of professional roles,” explained Dr. Mark Caleb Smith, professor of political science and director of the center for political studies.

“After the fellowship, students frequently work for the Ohio General Assembly or they move into the governor’s office or into lobbying organizations. It is an excellent stepping stone for students interested in making a difference, especially in Ohio politics.”

Starting the first week of December, both Hennigan and Payne will work with a member of Congress. Much of this work will focus on conducting research on potential legislative opportunities, as well as interacting with constituents and working on campaigns.

“I am born and raised in Springfield, Ohio, so Ohio is near and dear to my heart,” said Hennigan. “Now I get to be a part of that giant machine where I get to solve the people’s problems that affect their day-to-day life, which is very fulfilling to me.”

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,193 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.