

ELIANA ANDERSON

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PROFILE

Honors Political Science student (double major with Economics, in progress) at Howard University and member of the 4th Cohort of the Humanities and Social Science Scholars Program. Research interests center on mixed-methods exploratory sequential design applied to historical institutionalism and the political economy of Black opportunity. Combines quantitative training in data science and statistical analysis with experience in political research, advocacy, and organizational leadership. Seeking research and internship opportunities in political science, public policy, or applied social science research.

EDUCATION

Howard University — Washington, D.C.

Expected May 2030

B.A. Political Science (Honors) & Economics, Double Major (in progress)

- Humanities and Social Science Scholars Program — 4th Cohort
- Relevant Coursework: Honors Introduction to Research and Data Science, Introduction to Data Science

HONORS & AWARDS

- College Board National Recognition Programs Awardee
- College Board National Merit Recognition

CERTIFICATIONS

- IBM Data Science 101
- IBM Data Science Tools
- IBM Data Science Methodology
- Ascend AI Program — Completion

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Independent Research Project

2026

“Guardrails of Democracy: Examining Congressional Institutional Strength and Democratic Backsliding in the United States”

- Designed a quantitative, longitudinal, correlational study constructing a composite Congressional Institutional Strength Index (CISI) from five indicators of legislative capacity
- Synthesized literature across democratic backsliding theory and congressional-institutions scholarship to identify and address a gap connecting the two traditions
- Applied a lagged-variable OLS regression design with Newey-West (HAC) standard errors in Stata, including stationarity testing and multi-specification robustness checks

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Johnson County Democratic Party — Volunteer

2025

- Led a youth outreach initiative to increase voter registration and turnout among first-time voters
- Worked directly with the County Chair on the “25 in 2025” initiative to expand party presence and voter engagement
- Gained hands-on experience in political organizing, advocacy, and campaign strategy

Indiana State Senate — Legislative Job Shadow

2025

- Shadowed State Senator Andrea Hunley across policy, advocacy, and constituent meetings
- Observed legislative work on housing, education, workforce development, and anti-trafficking policy

LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE

DECA — Founder & President

2024–2025

- Founded and led a chapter providing hands-on business and leadership opportunities; grew membership from 24 to 36 members
- Directed a \$10K budget and led strategic initiatives resulting in 63–67% of members advancing to state competition

Black Student Union — Founder & President

2024–2025

- Founded a chapter to advance equity, inclusion, and representation; grew membership from 15 to 30 in year one
- Led a 6-person team organizing the school’s first Black History Month initiative, raising over \$500 in donations

Axe ‘n’ Bean Student-Run Café — Student Manager

2025

- Built the business plan, organizational structure, and operating systems for a student-run enterprise
- Raised \$3K in the first quarter and secured a \$5K grant from the Greenwood Education Foundation

SKILLS

- Research & Analysis: mixed-methods research design, literature synthesis, composite index construction, statistical analysis (Stata, Excel)
- Technical: IBM data science toolkit, data cleaning and standardization, applied AI (Ascend AI)
- Leadership: organizational founding and management, budget oversight, public speaking, community organizing