



## *Where Are They Now?*

### **Success Stories of Forge Alumni**



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# Dear Forge Champion,

This month marks the fifth anniversary of Forge. You and I can rightfully rejoice that 300 students have been trained from almost 30 different states, and that 160 have been selected, personally mentored, and trained further at the national and international level. But even more than the numbers, we celebrate the young people whose lives and future trajectories have been transformed or accelerated by Forge. It is their stories, and the ones that will follow in their footsteps for decades to come, that comprise the very heart of Forge. At its essence, in its name, Forge is a Network, an intermingling of intentional relationships - friends, colleagues, mentors, and champions. Interwoven stories. C.S. Lewis famously said, "Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another: 'What! You too? I thought I was the only one!'"

Justin and I started Forge because of one of those friendship "moments," as we volunteered on a friend's campaign. We launched Forge in order to multiply and replicate the relationships and opportunities that had been so meaningful and instrumental in our own lives and growth. How could we set up a way for principled young people to generate the same deep friendships, the trusted mentors, and the folks who would generously extend expertise and networks to them as young people?

We'd been blessed by some incredible people who had poured their lives into ours, but we wanted to help other young people to not have to try as hard to find the right mentors and networks. These student testimonials are, in a sense, the first returns on that experiment in setting up a formal way to mentor, train, connect, and launch young conservatives who aspire to impact policy and culture.

This is our "Where Are They Now?" edition of our quarterly newsletter. It's an alumni impact report full of personal testimonials; our graduates telling you their own stories of professional development and personal growth. The monthly "Forge Stories" have been our most popular e-newsletter. Here, I wanted to compile and update several of them for you and add a number of new ones from recent grads.

I'm very proud of the individuals whose stories you will read in the following pages. They've taken big steps of obedience to the Lord, they've left their comfort zones, and they've stood for truth even, and especially, when unpopular. As Teddy Roosevelt would commend them, they've refused the temptation to sit on the sidelines; they've entered the arena.

I've also provided you a glimpse into the testimonials of heads of organizations, CEO's, and elected officials who have hired these young servant-leaders. I'm thankful to them for the early belief they've had in the vision of Forge and the quality and "vetting" of Forge students and graduates. I'm thankful for all the employers who have given Forge grads a chance to shine and work hard.

Of course, I'm especially thankful to you for making these stories of life-changing impact possible through your generosity.

On our fifth anniversary, please join me in celebrating all the relationships and stories that God has woven and will continue to orchestrate in the future in the lives and careers of our Forge graduates. I'm fully convinced that in twenty years, we will have thousands of these "God stories" involving Forge alumni and supporters all throughout our world. Some of these will, by that point, surely involve the titles of ambassadors, senators, CEOs, professors, judges, and more.

Godspeed Toward That Vision,



Adam Josefczyk





Rachel Del Guidice

Jeremiah Martin

Peter Burns

Anna Self

Jena Powell

Danielle Price

Nicole Ault





Little did I know when I received two Facebook messages inviting me to the first ever Forge Leadership Summit, the profound impact that Forge would have on my life. I still remember. I was in a computer lab at school finishing up study guides and papers during finals week of May 2015, overwhelmed with the stress that finals week tends to bring. I'm so thankful for the encouragement and persistence of Adam and others who brought me on board to Forge as they helped me apply before the deadline.

Forge has impacted my life in many profound ways, but here I'd simply like to highlight four of those ways. First, Forge increased my appreciation for politics and the legislative process by giving me the opportunity to experience the legislative process up close and personal during the Forge legislative simulation. Forge made the legislative process come alive for me by challenging me to research and write my own bill, debate that bill in a committee hearing room at the Ohio Statehouse, and then debate our bills on the Ohio Statehouse floor with our peers. It's one thing to read about the dynamics of politics and legislation from a textbook or

a class, but it's another thing to see and touch and taste the legislative process up close and personal.

Second, Forge has blessed me with an incredible extended family of peers that is quickly becoming a network of support and trusted friends who spur me on to pursue God's plan for me. I work in Washington D.C., an aesthetically beautiful city, but one that can be a swamp filled with self-interested people. I am blessed, however, to know and collaborate with other Forge alumni who, like myself, have gone on to intern and work in D.C. either on Capitol Hill, in media, or in conservative nonprofits.

Third, Forge also made it possible for me to travel to Israel to experience the country's history and culture and come to a deeper appreciation for all the obstacles our greatest ally had to surpass to become a country. I'll never forget visiting places like Israel's Independence Hall in Tel Aviv, the site of the signing of Israel's Declaration of Independence, or the communities near the Gaza Strip where rocket fire and bombs are hurled into border cities and families have to be ready to find shelter at a moment's notice.

Fourth, Forge was directly instrumental in launching my career. During my senior year of college after completing the Summit, I got a call from Adam saying that he was meeting with Rob Bluey, the editor of The Daily Signal, which is the news organization of The Heritage Foundation. Adam knew about my interest to work in conservative media, and I am so thankful that he connected the dots and saw this as an opportunity to introduce me to someone who could be instrumental in connecting me with a job in that field. Little did I know, nearly a year after meeting with Adam and Rob, I would be interning at The Daily Signal and landing a job there immediately after my internship.



That internship unlocked so many opportunities for my current role in The Daily Signal. I have had the opportunity to cover some of the most important and controversial policy battles currently being fought on Capitol Hill and throughout the country, including issues like health care, tax reform, immigration, and social issues like gender and marriage. Aside from writing on these issues, I have also had the opportunity to speak about them on radio and TV hits, as well as periodically co-host The Daily Signal podcast where we delve into these and other issues of the day in depth.

I can't stress enough how thankful I am that Forge had the insight and vision to connect me and so many others who have gone through Forge with careers that match our passions. This is what sets Forge apart from so many of the internships, fellowship programs, and conservative job banks out there. Forge takes a keen and personal interest in the interests of their alumni and the careers they hope to pursue. It was always a dream and goal of mine to work at The Heritage Foundation, but I never expected that would be my first job right out of college. I am so thankful to Forge for being so instrumental in helping connect me with a goal and dream of mine that I never imagined would come to fruition so soon.

I am also incredibly thankful for all the Forge Champions who made the Forge program possible for me to attend, as my scholarship, funded by Forge Champions, allowed me to attend Forge's first ever Leadership Summit. God is not outdone in generosity, and thank you all so much for your generosity and having a hand in impacting not only the lives and futures of the now hundreds of students who have gone through the Forge Leadership Summit and Mentorship Academy, but also the FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY. – Rachel Del Guidice



Rachel Del Guidice



In 2017, I was deployed overseas with my Army Reserve unit in Iraq. I was stationed on a small camp on an Iraqi air base in Anbar Province. This camp was known as 'Camp Manion,' named after Lieutenant Travis Manion who was killed in action in the same area in April 2007. After Travis Manion paid the ultimate price in service to our country, his family and friends set up a foundation in his honor. Since we were stationed on the camp named after him, the Travis Manion Foundation made it a priority to support us while we were overseas. They sent us care packages and sponsored morale events during my time in Iraq. One seemingly insignificant item in one care package turned out to mean a great deal to me. It was simply a rubber wristband with the life motto of Travis Manion and subsequently the motto of the Travis Manion Foundation. This wristband is something I have worn nearly every day since I first received it in spring of 2017, and I'm wearing it right now even as I write this. It simply says, "If not me, then who?"

For the past seven years I have worked in the political and public policy space. As I would travel the state and talk to churches, community groups, and political organizations on the importance of cultural and political engagement, I would often think about why I do what I do. Every one of us comes to a point in our lives where we decide that we will no longer wait for someone else to solve the problem. Instead, we have a moment when we decide: "If not us, then who?" If not us, then who will fight for the lives of the unborn. If not us, then who will defend religious liberty? If I don't stand up and commit to making a difference, then who will? Adam and Justin are two men that personify this ideal more than just about anyone else I know. You see, when Forge Leadership Network was still just an idea, Adam and I used to talk about the need for an organization like this, the need for an organization to train and mentor the next generation. There are many great organizations out there that hold training seminars or classes for conservatives, and those are incredible resources. But there was never an organization that took the next step to train, mentor, engage, and then deploy those young conservatives into the marketplace. But Adam and Justin were not satisfied with complaining about the problem. Instead, they said, "If not me, then who?"



In 2015, when Forge was launching its inaugural summit, I remember having a conversation with Adam, saying, "Can I be a part of this?" I practically begged Adam to let me participate in the inaugural Forge Leadership Summit. At the time, I had a full-time job in public policy, I was married, I had three kids, and I was only two months away from being past the age limit. But I didn't see Forge as simply a good idea for other people; I knew that it was something that would add value to me. I was a believer in the mission and vision of Forge Leadership from early on, but even then, I still underestimated the value that it would bring to me, my family, and my career. So I went to the inaugural Forge Leadership Summit in 2015, and then I went to Israel with Forge in 2016. It was a dream of mine to go to Israel, and Forge offered the opportunity to deepen my faith while simultaneously learn more about the nuances of the geopolitics of the region. Through this program I have built relationships with Forge colleagues and mentors that will last a lifetime. Simply put, there is no other program out there that brings the range and depth of experiences that Forge offers. In November 2017, I found myself sitting in Iraq making a morale call back to the United States. Thanks to Adam and my connection to Forge, I conducted a phone interview with Aaron Baer, President of Citizens for Community Values, from 2000 miles away. I didn't have a job lined up for when I got back from deployment yet, and I was looking for the next step in my career. Long story short, I got the job and began working with Citizens for Community Values in December 2017 when I got home from Iraq. I worked with CCV through the Primary and General Elections in 2018.

At the end of 2018, Adam reached out to me and asked if I wanted to join Forge as their Chief Operating Officer. I was honored to be given the opportunity to give back to an organization that has given so much to me over the years. I accepted and have been running operations and recruiting for Forge since December.

I can honestly say that I would not be where I am today without the training, mentorship, and support of Adam, Justin, and my Forge Leadership colleagues. All because Adam, Justin, and many Forge Champions like you made the decision to do something about the problem and make a difference for the next generation of conservative leaders. My life has been changed because they asked the simple question, "If not me, then who?" – Jeremiah Martin



Jeremiah Martin



# Peter Burns



Recently I found myself briefing a senior State Department official on the impact of the Syrian crisis on Christians in Lebanon. As we discussed how to shift the U.S. foreign policy establishment's perspective on the issue, I recalled sitting with the Maronite Church Patriarch at the Patriarchal Seat north of Beirut, Lebanon a few months earlier and hearing him urge me, "Do not let Lebanon be held hostage to the politics of Syria."

As I write this, I think, I'm just a kid from the Midwest. I grew up with corn fields in my backyard. What business do I have advocating to the U.S. government on behalf of persecuted Christians in the Middle East? To answer that question, I have to tell you a story about Forge Leadership Network.

As a young conservative who wanted to engage in the political arena, I was desperately seeking training and mentors to prepare and guide me into a daunting and unfamiliar world. I was traveling hundreds of miles from the Midwest to Texas to find that sort of training, when I met Adam and Justin. They told me that they had a vision to meet my need right in the American heartland.

I had the privilege of being a participant in the first Forge Summit and Academy Class, and I can tell you, from the very beginning, Adam and Justin weren't investing in a program, they were investing in people. Investing in me.

Within a month of attending the Summit, I was on a bus leaving Washington, D.C. after completing a summer internship on Capitol Hill, when Adam called me and said, "Do you remember telling me how you'd love to get the opportunity to work on Marco Rubio's presidential primary campaign? It turns out I have been able to line up an internship with the campaign for you!" I got off the bus, repacked my bags and went straight back to D.C. to start interning for the Rubio campaign. That launched an incredible six-month journey from an intern to a staffer in the headquarters of a national presidential primary campaign.

The week before Marco ended his bid for the nomination, Adam was already calling me and asking if I wanted to come work for Forge and help plan the upcoming Summit. From then on, my mom stopped asking if I was looking for my next job and just started asking what Adam had lined up for me. Working for Forge with Adam and Justin was probably the most fun and rewarding job I've ever had. I came to know Adam as a kind and humble leader, with an unwavering commitment to truth and principle.

The Summit was a success, and it wasn't long before Adam was on the phone again telling me there was an amazing opportunity to work for the Governor of Kansas. I could not be more grateful than to have worked for Governor Sam Brownback. There is no more principled, courageous, and Godly statesman, and it was truly a privilege to work on his staff; fighting to keep taxes low, pushing to make Kansas one of the most pro-life states in the nation, and helping people rise out of poverty by reducing the number of people forced to live on government assistance.



Another aspect of the Forge program I have not mentioned is that Forge exposes students to the Middle East through an amazing opportunity to visit Israel with Passages. Traveling to Israel with Forge sparked my curiosity, and later I had the opportunity to spend a month in Israel and Jordan with the Philos Project, a trip which I thought would satisfy that curiosity. It turns out it was not that simple. I remember standing in a Syrian refugee camp in Jordan, looking out over a shipping container city of 80,000 displaced people, and having a dawning realization that knowledge has a cost, and I would not be able to return to the United States and forget what I had seen.

Those experiences led me to the work I do now, advocating for persecuted Christians in the Middle East with In Defense of Christians (IDC). IDC is a non-profit lobby based on Capitol Hill that advises Congress, the White House, and the State Department on the needs of persecuted Christians in the Middle East.

I thank God for Forge, because the vision He put in Adam's and Justin's hearts has changed and continues to change my life, and the lives of so many other young people. — Peter Burns



Forge paired a name and a network to my values and convictions. Ever since I can remember, I have always had a lot of opinions. I value building community, using my resources to help others, advocating for people at all stages of life, supporting small businesses, and defending the rights outlined by the Constitution. However, I never quite felt that my opinions, values, and convictions were in line with the popular views in culture, politics, and business. I was looking for a platform and a network of people who not only shared my views, but could encourage my growth. I was a last minute recruit for the Forge Leadership Summit of 2018. I didn't know it then, but their vision for conservative leadership was exactly what I had been looking for.

Forge bridged the gap between the skills I had and the career I didn't see as an option. At the Summit, I found myself rushing up and down the aisles of the Ohio State House floor "whipping" up votes for bills during the legislative simulation. I supported what I believed would be beneficial laws and communicated the intent of these bills to my peers. It was exhilarating. I discovered that I could skillfully provide clarity on complicated principles and present a convincing argument.



On our trip to Washington D.C., we had the opportunity to network with think tank executives, researchers, writers, politicians, and lawyers who offered us advice and even opportunities to be successful conservative leaders. I was most impacted by our time at the Alliance for Defending Freedom. The staff who spoke with us were passionate about their work and used words like advocate, defend, protect, and fight in their speeches and personal conversations with us. I was drawn to ADF's protection of small business owners' personal liberties and rights. Both ADF and the business owners were dedicated to fighting for what is right even when it was inconvenient and the consequences could be disastrous for their business. I loved the concept of God as our protector, defender, warrior, and advocate; and I saw some of that willingness to fight for and to defend others within myself. I simply had never found a profession my skills and passions aligned with. This was the first day I truly considered law as a viable profession choice for me. The next summer I applied, took the LSAT, and am now a current 1L student at the University of Dayton School of Law.

Forge isn't just a networking opportunity; it's a community of like-minded friends and supporters. I have thrived in my first month of law school, but my conservative values and convictions aren't always the most popular ideas on campus. I find myself surrounded by others who think and feel differently than I do. However, because of the resources and leadership development I have acquired through Forge, I'm able to build relationships with my peers, discuss our differences in views, and advocate for conservative principles. Forge is truly unique as it continues to provide me with a wonderful network of friends (including my best friend Haley all the way from California) who I can call on for wisdom, advice, and empathy. I hope that as a sponsor you see yourself as part of this support system, too. Without ever meeting me, you've played an undeniable role in introducing me to the conservative movement, encouraging me to be a leader, and pushing me down the path to my future career as a lawyer. — Anna Self



Anna Self





Ever since I was thirteen years old and received a business magazine for Christmas, I knew I wanted to be a business owner. I started college business classes at thirteen years old, and started my first company when I was seventeen. It was a digital advertising company in Southwest Florida, where we worked on islands up and down the West coast, working with hundreds of small businesses across the state. I ended up selling the first company I started and I now co-own and manage an outdoor advertising company across Ohio and Indiana. We own over 700 billboards and I work with hundreds of small businesses across Ohio.

I knew Adam and Justin before Forge Leadership Network was even started, so I had the opportunity to be involved from the beginning. The first year I heard from numerous speakers and found them intriguing. I wasn't very politically inclined, and being involved in politics full-time wasn't even on my radar. But, I cared about my community and wanted to help, so I remained involved with Forge, and saw the lives of hundreds of students changed. A couple years into helping with Forge, I was listening to one of the speakers, Joseph Backholm, and he said, "As Christians in the public square, we are ambassadors of truth, and we speak that truth wherever we go."

That was a turning point for me on how I viewed politics. While I still didn't think it was something I wanted to do myself, I started seeing the importance of

good people being in the public square, willing to serve their community, and make it better through good government. Oftentimes people have one huge turning point in their lives, but that wasn't the case for me. It was small things over the years like traveling to Israel with Forge and seeing the beauty of freedom, going to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. and realizing the number of children that are killed each year, and this past year having to deal with excessive government regulations and taxes in my business. Through all of this, I had a growing sense of urgency that something needed to change in our community.

Forge taught me over the years that we can speak truth into culture wherever we are, so I planned to do that in business. But, sometimes God has other things in mind. Last summer, a friend came to me and asked if I have ever considered running for office. I laughed and said absolutely not. But sometimes our plan isn't God's plan and I became a candidate for State Rep in Ohio's 80th district over a year and a half ago. It has now been ten months that I have been in office, serving Miami County and Southern Darke County.



Without Forge, I never would have run. Forge gave me the networks, friendships, policy skills, and confidence to run. If you were to ask Adam, he would say I was probably the last person he expected to run for anything in politics, but Adam poured into my life, as he does with many other people. He did this not because he thought I would have some kind of illustrious career, but because he cares about mentoring and showing us what it means to passionately serve those around us. Running for office for me wasn't the end goal and being a representative isn't the end all. Forge taught me that whether you are in business, politics, or the arts, we should use our gifts and talents to serve God and our communities.

The training and mentorship I received at the Forge Leadership Network has been vital to my success in the political arena. Forge's hands-on training has prepared me for the battles I fight every day in the State House to promote what is right and true. Forge's connections and partnerships have given me the network of support from conservative peers and conservative mentors that I need to stay grounded in the truth. – Jena Powell





I never would have guessed that less than a year after attending the inaugural Forge Leadership Academy, I would be flying on an almost abandoned plane into the heart of Mosul. I never imagined that while others ran away, I would be running into the belly of the beast.

I think for me it all started back at the Forge Summit. I attended Forge as an unlikely candidate: already three years into my post-collegiate career, working full-time as a nurse in a trauma intensive care unit, and volunteering as a paramedic at a local fire department; my mind was not on international politics. I soon found this perspective challenged when I attended the Forge Summit. After five jam-packed days of motivational speakers, hands-on legislative simulations, and laughs, I realized there was so much I was missing out on, so much I had to learn. I decided to join Forge Academy because I felt unsure of how I could implement my new-found knowledge in my current vocation. Forge helped with just this issue.

My Forge experience culminated at Forge 301 through the Forge-Passages trip to Israel. This trip to the Holy Land was particularly transformational in my life as I gained a greater understanding of the various complex issues facing Israel and the Middle East. As I stood on the Golan Heights, overlooking the dusky Syrian plains, listening intently to our guide lament the growing heaps of dead in their current civil war, my heart broke at their anguish. I wondered how God could use me in the Middle East in a medical capacity. About six months after my trip to Israel with Forge,



I came across an ad that read, “Urgent Medical Help Needed in Northern Iraq.” I had found the first step! Within two months, I was traveling on a sparsely populated flight destined for the Nineveh Plains. As most sensible people were evacuating out of the war-zone, I found myself catapulted by providence straight to the Mosul border to work at a field hospital for trauma patients.

I can remember the vivid scenes of war-torn Iraq: victims were freed from the ISIS stronghold, but their devastating injuries impeded them from making it to the closest standing hospital. They just could not make the trip under so much physical agony. Physical agony aside, the journey was perilous. Destroyed buildings lined both sides of the road and smoke climbed slowly in wisps,

showing where the enemy had just attacked. Many roads were bombed out, providing only one lane for travel. The towns leading to Mosul had been decimated. Refugee families, with possessions in tow, stood waiting in long lines. Children darted back and forth between cars and trucks. Heavily armed guards stopped all vehicles and assessed each one to confirm no threats. The hospital, comprised of a series of sand-colored tents, was situated behind fifteen-foot-deep blast walls. Concrete bunkers were sprinkled throughout the compound. A compassionate team of doctors, nurses, and translators worked long, languishing shifts to provide life-saving care for men, women, and children who had sustained severe abuse.

After my first month at the field hospital came to an end, I headed back to the States, reflecting on all I had seen. Two months later, after praying for God’s leading, I quit my job in a full-time capacity and headed back to Iraq for another month. After that, I traveled back to Israel, this time as a Forge Fellow, just ten days after returning from Iraq. Since that time, I have traveled all over the world. I’ve worked at a diphtheria clinic in a refugee camp for the Rohingya people in Bangladesh. I’ve been in an Ebola treatment center in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I’ve served at transition centers for migrants on the Texas-Mexico border. God used Forge in my life, as a medical professional, to expand my vision for the world. Forge paved the way for me to step outside of my comfort zone and was a springboard that launched me into a ministry that meets the needs of vulnerable populations around the world. — Danielle Price







When I attended the Forge Leadership Summit two years ago, I came hesitantly. I felt wary of networking at Forge, as I had interned in D.C. that summer. I was overwhelmed by networking events and all too aware of the enticement to prioritize professional success over everything else. I couldn't continue putting my identity in my connections and I feared Forge would feed this tendency.

Instead, Forge changed my perspective on networking. Within an hour of arriving for the Summit, I was listening to professionals in business and politics alike humbly testifying to Christ's work in their lives. They offered professional advice, and talked about their careers, but above all they made clear that their faith was what motivated them. Along with their lectures on the free market, dressing professionally, and communication, what they emphasized the most was character shaped by faith: the need to be humble, honest, and self-sacrificing; the need to not idolize a job.

Those words translated into actions at the Forge Summit. Forge leaders and students were engaging and down to earth. We ate ice cream sundaes and played volleyball in the dark and goofed off on bus rides. During a legislative

simulation, in which each student defended a bill he or she had written, everyone was courteous—even humorous—despite competing with one another. In fact, you would be an outsider if you took yourself too seriously. The same focus on faith and community impressed me again on the 201 trip to Washington, D.C., where we heard politicians and political advisers remind us that faith and family are more important than any high-profile job. There in D.C., we bonded over meals and conversations, enjoying real fellowship.

One conversation especially illustrates the front-and-center faith that makes Forge so unusual. Forge Academy hosted a conference call with Sam Brownback, former governor of Kansas and now the State Department's international religious freedom ambassador. He spoke humbly of his reliance on Christ, and said, poignantly, that God never gave him more success than he had faith to handle. That remark impacted me and has shaped the way I think about my unfolding career.

On top of all this character-building and perspective-shaping, Forge offered practical help as well. Forge introduced me to the inner workings of Capitol Hill and the legislative



process. They taught me about communications and politics. They even helped me publish my first op-ed in a professional outlet: The Federalist. When I applied for an internship on Capitol Hill, they passed along my resume to people they knew there. Adam connected me with an experienced journalist to mentor me and Justin helped me set year-long goals.

Above all, I will always appreciate the lasting friendships I have from Forge; the people who I can turn to for professional advice, but most importantly, who encourage me to live well and to seek Christ first.

I graduated from Hillsdale College last May and am now working with the Wall Street Journal editorial page, which is something of a dream come true for me. The Forge community will always be a sounding board for my thinking and will continue to ask me the question: Am I "seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness," as Jesus exhorts (Matt. 6:33)? If not, no career is worth it.

In this way, Forge is what a network should be: A community of believers, iron sharpening iron, encouraging each other to do well at whatever work is before them—and to stay strong in the faith. — Nicole Ault





"Forge prepares tomorrow's leaders to fight for America's future by training students in the principles of conservatism and equipping them with practical skills." – *Congressman Jim Jordan, U.S. House of Representatives (OH-04)* (Pictured right)



"The [Forge grad] I hired has been as good as advertised! I can see why Forge thinks so highly of him and why you recommended him so strongly. He's been a great addition and not just me, but everyone in our office has been very impressed. Forge is providing an invaluable service, building up the next generation of conservative leaders and public servants who are well-prepared to take on the noble task of preserving our republic and creating a brighter future. Their efforts to help place graduates in positions where they can give back to their community is vital to growing the conservative movement." – *Brandon J. Smith, Policy Director for then – Governor of Kansas Sam Brownback*



"I brag about the Forge people and program to as many people as I can. Quality, passionate, and grounded are only a few words I would use to describe Forge and its alumni. We at CMC have had the opportunity to hire a number of the Forge graduates and have always been rewarded with top quality, engaged alumni that contribute professionally and assist us in supporting our culture. Want a great way to promote Forge? Hire their alumni!" – *Al Caperna, CEO and Chairman, CMC Group*

"Forge is providing a tremendous service to the conservative movement. By building a farm team of future leaders, organizations like The Heritage Foundation have seen its benefits firsthand. One of Forge's graduates, Rachel del Guidice, interned at Heritage and quickly made her mark. Now, she's part of our reporting team at The Daily Signal and she's covering the biggest news stories happening in Congress. Thanks to Forge's training, Rachel understands how the legislative process works and she's prepared to take on the assignment. I hope future Forge graduates follow the same path." – *Rob Bluey, Editor In Chief, The Daily Signal* (Pictured left)



"Finding young talent that is hard working and committed to conservative principles is not the easiest task, yet the Forge Mentorship Academy grad on our team has proven to be a tremendous asset to Citizens for Community Values. Claire Dyson joined the CCV team as an administrative assistant just a year ago, but because of the training she received through Forge, she has demonstrated a tremendous understanding of the issues facing Christians, churches, and families today, and a special gift for communication and writing. It's because of her talents that extend beyond her years that we have promoted her into a communications role with CCV. Whenever a new position opens up at CCV, Forge will always be the first place I look." – *Aaron Baer, President, Citizens for Community Values* (Pictured right)



## Employer Testimonials