



Eye on Alumni: Joseph Staruski

Joseph's early research experience at Rising Tide was pivotal in helping him determine his specialized career field.

Joseph Staruski attended Rising Tide from 2009 through 2016. One of his favorite upper school memories was participating in Civics Night, an annual event where Rising Tide juniors showcase their in-depth research projects about local civic issues. "That project gave me the opportunity to reach out to the Superintendent of the Plymouth Public Schools, our State Representative, and a local faith leader while I was doing research. That experience helped to teach me to connect with important community members and had a focus on public policy around our research topic. Today, I have a master's degree in public policy, and I remember that being one of my earliest experiences doing research in what has become my specialized career field."

After graduating from Rising Tide, Joseph went on to study Philosophy and the Growth and Structure of Cities at Haverford College, and he recently completed a master of public policy program at UMass Amherst. He interned with the Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council and the Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research in Boston. Today, he is working as a research associate at the George Washington Institute of Public Policy in Washington D.C., where he contributes to their research on Significant Features of Property Taxes across the United States.

"Rising Tide was very academically challenging and gave me a huge advantage in college because I was prepared to do the work. Rising Tide taught me strategies in how to read and write well and how to manage my time. Those skills were immensely valuable in college life. Through electives and extracurricular activities, I was also able to build leadership skills, interpersonal connections, and explore interesting areas of study that contributed to my knowledge going into college."

One of Joseph's favorite memories from Rising Tide was the Senior Trip. "I feel like my class was a really amazing group of people, and during the trip, we were able to reflect on our time at Rising Tide together and all of the great experiences we shared together. It was also really fun to visit the white mountains with everyone, go on an early morning hike, and sit around the campfire."