



IGNITE the 27th class
of Democracy Summer
Friendterns

INVEST in the next
generation of community
leadership today

*“At Democracy NC, I learned that
activism, organizing, and social justice
do not just have to be a hobby. You can
do this work as a career.”*

ALYSSA RODRIGUEZ | 2019 Friendtern

STUDENT AND YOUNG ADULT ENGAGEMENT



THE NEXT GENERATION OF DEMOCRACY LEADERS

Young people are not just the future of democracy. They are leading right now, bringing energy, new perspectives, and a deep commitment to their communities.

Through Democracy Summer and the Bridge Fellowship, young leaders are gaining the skills, confidence, and experience to build lasting civic engagement across North Carolina. These emerging leaders bring diverse experiences and perspectives, from college students to young adults building leadership pathways outside traditional academic settings. Together, they are strengthening civic participation, building community connections, and shaping the future of democracy in North Carolina.

"Organizing is not only about ensuring our well-being in the present, but preserving opportunities and freedom for our descendants seven generations down the line."

GINO NUZZOLILLO | 2021 Friendtern



THE BRIDGE FELLOWSHIP



The Bridge Program enters its second year!

The Bridge is designed to invest in young adults aged 18–29 who are not currently enrolled in a higher education program, an often-overlooked but critically important group.



**BRIDGE
FELLOW**

Jaymond *Bryant-Herron*



“I am grateful for Democracy NC extending a space to reflect on long-term movement strategy and the opportunity to strengthen our civic education and voter engagement approach across North Carolina. The journey from protest to sustained organizing is what shaped my commitment to movement work and belief that we can collectively make change.”

Jaymond Bryant-Herron is a community organizer from Concord, North Carolina, driven by a deep commitment to building pathways for young people and marginalized communities to engage in democracy. His work centers on transforming civic participation from a moment into sustained community leadership.

Through **the Bridge Fellowship**, Jaymond turned ideas to action, developing a fellowship project to bring young people to Raleigh in June for a dedicated Youth Advocacy Day. Along the way, he built lasting relationships across the state, gaining the training, coaching, and support needed to deepen his impact.



**Second-Year
Friendtern, 2026 |
Policy Friendtern,
2024 | NC A&T
Graduate**

“Democracy Summer helped me connect my passion for issues like racial justice, education, and climate policy to the fundamental

importance of voting rights. I learned that without access to the ballot, progress on any issue becomes much harder to achieve. I’m excited to return this year to deepen my organizing skills and mentor new Friendterns as they begin their own leadership journeys.”

Alexia Chavis, a graduate of North Carolina A&T State University, was a Policy Friendtern in 2024, where she explored how research, organizing, and communications work together to expand voter access. Her experience strengthened her commitment to voting rights advocacy and demonstrated the power of coordinated, community-driven change.

Alexia served as President of Black Girls Vote at her university, where she led nonpartisan voter engagement efforts and helped students better understand local and national issues. She also worked as a Research Workgroup Co-Lead within the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement, and developed a digital voter guide to make nonpartisan candidate information more accessible to students.

Now returning for a second year, Alexia is excited to deepen her organizing skills and help mentor the next cohort of Friendterns. Her journey reflects what makes Democracy Summer special: mentorship, hands-on experience, and a supportive community of young leaders working together to strengthen democracy in North Carolina.



Donate Today!



STUDENT ACTIVISTS BLAZING NEW TRAILS

For 27 years, Democracy North Carolina has invested in young people who are ready to step forward, speak out, and shape the future of their communities. This summer, we welcome a new class of Democracy Summer “Friendterns,” alongside Bridge Fellows



who are leading civic engagement efforts across North Carolina.

These programs are more than training experiences. They are entry points into leadership. Whether on a college campus or rooted in their home community, participants gain the

skills, confidence, and support to turn their passion into action—organizing their peers, educating voters, and building pathways for others to participate in democracy.

At a time when the stakes for our democracy feel increasingly personal, this work matters deeply. Young leaders are not waiting their turn. They are already doing the work of strengthening their communities and ensuring every voice can be heard.

Your support makes this possible.

Each Friendtern receives a \$5,000 stipend, and Bridge Fellows are supported through a six-month fellowship that provides stipends, training, and mentorship. These resources ensure that talented, committed young leaders can participate fully—regardless of financial barriers.

Will you help fund this year’s Friendterns?

Your gift fuels their work, their growth, and the communities they serve. It is an investment in people who are building a stronger, more inclusive democracy across North Carolina.

Warmest regards,

ADRIENNE KELLY | Executive Director

P.S. Your support of the 27th **Fund Our Friendterns** campaign is an investment in leadership that lasts far beyond a single summer.