

# Sean A. Maiwald, MPP

Proven leader and policy expert in deaf and disability issues, with an entrepreneurial background and a wide range of experience including nonprofit leadership, community organizing, and advocacy.

## Teaching & Research Experience

### Gallaudet University, Washington, DC — Adjunct Professor

Fall 2018 - Present

#### Spring 2022:

- **General Studies Requirement: Policy Entrepreneurship - GSR 240-02 & GSR 240-03:** Combining policy and entrepreneurship to teach students to be change-makers and critical thinkers that can make an impact through policy, business, a social enterprise, or a combination of all three.
- **Communication Studies: Public Presentations - COM 290-01:** Taught communication studies students how to prepare and present a range of topics to various sized audiences, with an emphasis on multimedia - e.g. prerecorded, in-person, through virtual means, and so on.
- **Communication Studies: Internship Seminar - COM 320-01:** Course focuses on teaching and preparing communication studies students with essential skills and knowledge needed to obtain internships and continue to grow in the field, including space to reflect and discuss among peers. The goal is to integrate experiences and growth with a liberal arts education.

- **Communication Studies: Argumentation and Debate - COM 480-01:** Taught students theories and practice related to argumentation and debate in a range of contexts, including political discourse. The goal is to teach students how to effectively frame arguments and present ideas in our modern world.

#### Fall 2021:

- **General Studies Requirement: Policy Entrepreneurship - GSR 240-05:** Combining policy and entrepreneurship to teach students to be change-makers and critical thinkers that can make an impact through policy, business, a social enterprise, or a combination of all three.
- **Communication Studies: Public Presentations - COM 290-01:** Taught communication studies students how to prepare and present a range of topics to various sized audiences, with an emphasis on multimedia - e.g. prerecorded, in-person, through virtual means, and so on.
- **Communication Studies: Business and Professional Communication - COM 340-01:** Taught students various communication methods and theories that businesses and workplaces use for a range of uses and contexts. Students also learned multimedia strategies and interfaces, e.g. creating their own websites and portfolios.
- **Communication Studies: Political Communication - COM 450-01:** Gave students an overview of the history of communication in politics, especially in campaigns, and how that influences current media and political discourse.

#### Spring 2021:

- **General Studies Requirement - GSR 240, Policy Entrepreneurship:** 2 sections, and course was taught remotely, due to the pandemic. Combining policy and entrepreneurship to teach students to be change-makers and critical thinkers that can make an impact through policy, business, a social enterprise, or a combination of all three.

## Contact

[seanmaiwald@gmail.com](mailto:seanmaiwald@gmail.com)  
[seanmaiwald.com](http://seanmaiwald.com)

## Skills

- Policy Analysis
- Technical Writing and Academic Publishing
- Entrepreneurship
- Policy Development
- Political Advocacy and Leadership
- Mentorship and coaching

## Languages

- American Sign Language: native proficiency.
- English: native proficiency.

### Spring 2019:

- **Business – Foundations of Entrepreneurship:** taught students about foundations of entrepreneurship, with an emphasis on teaching frameworks and theory, including items such as the Business Model Canvas and Lean Start-Up methods.
- **Business – Social Entrepreneurship:** an entrepreneurship course with a significant focus on social justice, social enterprises such as ‘B’ corporations, and

### Fall 2018:

- **General Studies Requirement – GSR 101, First Year Seminar:** Some items taught included how to write a college paper, how to conduct research using an academic lens, as well as how to navigate the college experience. One section was for regular students, and the second was for English developmental students, where an extra degree of care and support was needed to ensure that students succeeded.

### Course Development

- **General Studies Requirement: Policy Entrepreneurship – GSR 240:** I designed this course that provides students with critical thinking and skills related to both entrepreneurship and policy advocacy. I emphasized the need to apply an entrepreneurial mindset to various challenges that we face in the world around us, such as the lack of access to civic and governmental services in the District of Columbia.
- **Social Entrepreneurship:** designed an entrepreneurship course with a significant social justice perspective in partnership with Dr. Thomas Baldrige to teach students how to establish social enterprises.
- **Masters of Public Administration: The Policy Making Process – MPA 718:** Currently under development as of May 31, 2022 for Fall 2022.
- **Masters of Public Administration: Communication in Public Administration – MPA 796:** Currently under development as of May 31, 2022 for Fall 2022.

## **The National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes at the University of Texas, Austin, Remote — *Managing Editor***

February 2019 - January 2021

Worked as a Managing Editor for a R1 federally funded education research lab.

- In a year, developed forty-five (45) resources, managing and publishing evidence-based resources, including data reports, e-learning modules and an educational game for deaf teenagers (Deafverse)
- Supported research efforts in editing, translating, and appropriately structuring content to match needs of audiences. Translation included taking formal research articles into publicly accessible and actionable content, e.g. FAQs, summaries, and tipsheets.

### **Policy & Political Work**

## **The Education Committee of the District of Columbia Council , Washington, DC — *Policy Fellow***

August 2018 - November 2018

Advised and reviewed education policy, and authored legislation including:

- L23-0957: The Open Captioning Requirement Act of 2018
- B23-1037: The Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Establishment Act of 2018, passed and funded in 2020

## Political Consulting and Community Advocacy

2020 Election Cycle

**Consulted and advised the Biden, Warren, and Buttigieg campaigns on deaf and disability policy, including:**

- First mention of language deprivation in a presidential political platform
- Championed policy initiatives that emphasized the need for sign language access for deaf children

2022 Election Cycle

**Co-Chair, Zachary Parker for Ward 5 for 2022.** Advised the campaign team on disability policy, deaf policy, and education policy.

### Education

#### The George Washington University, Washington, DC — *Master of Public Policy*

August 2016 - May 2018

- Concentration in Education Policy
- Conducted a Benefit-Cost Analysis that compares various costs for deaf early intervention strategies
- Capstone project reviewed FCC regulations and SBA regulations for Business Data Services for small businesses comparing geographic and regulatory differences

#### Gallaudet University, Washington, DC — *Bachelor of Arts, Government*

August 2012 - May 2016

- Cum laude, graduated with a 3.59 GPA, won the Stanley Benowitz Leadership Award
- Student-athlete letterwinner for four years for the Gallaudet University football team
- Worked for the student newspaper, The Buff and Blue
- Interned at a variety of places, from doing congressional relations for Gallaudet University to interning for Representative Lowenthal (D-CA) in the U.S. House of Representatives

### Presentations and Panels

#### The 2021 Harkin Summit on Disability Employment of Iowa — *Panelist for 'State of the State'*

- Provided a critical disability lens on the state of disability employment, with a focus on Iowa as part of the Harkin Summit.
- Emphasized that accessibility measures in the workplace benefited workplaces and fostered productivity, based on work conducted by *Everyone at Work*, a nonprofit that I established.

### Entrepreneurship, Leadership, and Nonprofits

#### District of Columbia Association for the Deaf — *President*

Spring 2021 - Present

- Responsible for leading, representing, and advocating for the interests of the deaf people of the District of Columbia. This work is done in partnership with a diverse board that has a wide range of backgrounds, interests, and needs.
- Organized lobbying and advocacy efforts for the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, which was passed and funded in late 2021.

## **The Virtual ASL Academy — Chief Executive Officer and Founder**

Spring 2021 - Present

- Established an online education resources business for deaf students, providing tutoring, coaching, mentoring, curriculum, and courses (e.g. ACT, SAT, GED).
- Currently act as the Chief Operating Officer, brought the business from a concept to seed funding stage, currently seeking Series A funds.

## **reFort — Chief Operating Officer and Founder**

Fall 2016 - December 2020

- Established a sustainable start-up that partnered with college campuses to divert appliances out of the waste stream through reuse and refurbishment. In parallel, created a rental service so that college students can get the appliances they need while also encouraging reuse. During the lifetime of the business, we were able to reduce carbon emissions by over 800,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Was responsible for the bootstrapping of the business from a concept founded at the Climathon in Fall 2016 at The George Washington University all the way through to Series B funding, including a six-figure raise from a social venture fund.
- Business was closed down in December 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Deaf Policy and Advocacy Network — Founder**

Summer 2020 to Present

- Project currently under construction, with the eventual goal of a policy-focused advocacy organization that supports deaf outcomes and achievements.
- Currently planning for Get Out the Vote and voter education efforts for the 2022 midterm election.

## **Everyone at Work — Founder**

Summer 2019 to Present

- Non-profit organization that focuses on connecting disabled people with employment opportunities through training, events, and mentorship.
- Events were held in the summer of 2019 with the support and partnership of the Harkin Institute at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. More events and programming are planned for after the pandemic subsides.

## **Publications**

### **SignVote & CSD Public Policy — Freelance Writer & Intern**

Fall 2017

**SignVote: a voter education initiative for deaf people from Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD).**

- Wrote the scripts for two videos outlining the 2020 state and federal ballots.

Spring & Fall 2020

**Communication Service for the Deaf: the parent organization of the SignVote initiative.**

- As an intern during graduate school, wrote and signed a video explaining Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) programs, an important policy component for early education and literacy of deaf people.

## **Greater Greater Washington — *Editorial Board***

2016 - Present

- Advised and wrote articles for an urbanism advocacy organization. The organization advocates for safe streets, biking, transportation, and appropriate land use. I advocate for accessibility for disabled people in these spaces and discussions, and have translated research articles into user friendly pieces.

## **WAMU & DCist — *Freelance Journalist***

2017

- Freelance journalist, wrote several articles, including the only piece written by a deaf person on the first Signing Starbucks in the United States. Also reviewed pop culture items, such as DeafU on Netflix.