

# Wesleyan Wednesday

## Wesley Whistle '12

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Wesley is an Owensboro native and graduated from Wesleyan with a B.S. in Political Science and his MPA from UK's Martin School of Public Policy. Wesley describes his college experience at Wesleyan as a holistic one full of experiences that prepared him for the real world and his unique career trajectory. He was an active member of student government, the Stanley Reed Society and Sigma Nu fraternity. He also spent a semester in Frankfort interning for the Kentucky state legislature and was an intern for the Commonwealth's attorney's office.

When recalling fond memories of his time as a student, Wesley noted two in particular – one where he was able to travel to Norfolk, VA and Washington D.C. to do research at the MacArthur Museum and National Archives as part of a course focused on the Korean War with Dr. Horrell and another where he traveled to NYC to study the religions of the world.

He credited Dr. Bill Conroy as his most influential mentor during his time at the College, remembering his encouragement to think critically and question any preconceived ideas, stating “that has prepared me as I evaluate public policy in my career but also as I work with a diversity of people with divergent opinions and backgrounds.”

Career-wise, Wesley has a history filled with experience in government and higher education. In government, he's worked at the state legislature, the state auditor and the Cabinet for Economic Development. In higher ed, he's worked at UK, U of L and we were even fortunate enough to have him here at Wesleyan for a while! Wesley eventually left Kentucky and combined his past experiences into a position in Washington D.C. where he works on federal education policy, producing research and advocating on Capitol Hill for various policies and legislation to improve education. Recently, he's been providing technical assistance and advice to Congressional offices as they approach the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. He was also a 2015 Fellow for the Kentucky Chapter of the New Leaders Council and later joined their board.



We think one of the most impressive things about Wesley is that he's also a contributor for Forbes, where he writes on education issues! His work has also been cited and he's been quoted in the New York Times, Washington Post, Atlantic, Inside Higher Ed and more.

When asked who he'd like to have a cup of coffee with and what he'd ask them, he was quick to respond. “Definitely Hillary Clinton, but it'd be a glass of chardonnay. Hillary is someone I look up to both personally and professionally. She's someone who broke barriers and fought hard fights, all in effort to improve the lives of Americans. I have a million questions but the main one would be to ask her to officiate my wedding.”