

JONAH SEGIL
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EDUCATION

Mira Costa High School

2023-present

- Currently a senior, Class of 2027
- Academic Weighted GPA 4.49
- Challenging curriculum: AP English Literature, AP Government, AP Calculus BC, AP Spanish, Honors Physics, AP Microeconomics and Model United Nations
- SAT: 1550; AP scores (out of 5): US History 5, Calculus AB 5, English Lang & Comp 5, European History 5, Human Geography 5, Chemistry 4, Precalculus 4

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

- Primary author of a commentary article published in The Lancet of Infectious Disease focused on LGBTQ+ youth sexual health education. Segil, J., & Mimiaga, M.J. The need for actionable sexual health education for the prevention of HIV & STIs among LGBTQ+ youth in the United States. *The Lancet Infectious Disease* (in press)
- Co-Author of oral abstract presentation to be presented at the 26th International AIDS Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Session title: Minds matter - Mental health in HIV treatment & prevention. Project IMPACT - Behavioral Activation with Integrated Risk Reduction Counseling Among MSM Significantly Reduces Stimulant Use and HIV Sexual Risk Behavior—Results of an Efficacious Randomized Controlled Trial. Authors: Mimiaga, M.J., Pantalone, D.W., Biello, K.B., Tian, J., Blankespoor, S., Hughto, J.M.W., Reisner, S.L., Yonko, E., Segil, J., O'Cleirigh, C., Mayer, K.H., Safren, S.A
- Co-Author of “Determinants of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis Positivity Using Self-Collected Biospecimens in a Large Cohort of Sexual and Gender Minorities Who Are Living With, or at Heightened Risk for, HIV in the United States” to be published in the medical journal, *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. Submitted for publication for target Fall 2026 acceptance
- Presented “*Understanding the Fires: Research in Action*” poster at the 1st Annual LA Fires Research Conference. January 14, 2026. As co-author, described current research study assessing trauma, mental health, and substance use impacts on HIV risk-taking behaviors among individuals living with and without HIV in the aftermath of the 2025 Los Angeles fires (Authors: Yonko, E.A., Aminzadeh, K., Orellana, C.C., Segil, J., Boka, C., Blankespoor, S., Mimiaga, M.J.)

PUBLIC SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AS LGBTQ+ ADVOCATE

- **Manhattan Beach Community Church: Open & Inclusive Sunday Keynote (May 2026):** Spoke to over 200 congregants about my journey coming out, my advocacy work and offered advice on how to welcome LGBTQ+ members into their community and congregation
- **LA County Office of Education Report Card Opening meeting with Equality California (Fall 2024):** Spoke as a student panelist along with other adult advocates, health care providers and educators on the topic of the LGBTQ+ student experience at a public school; talked about journey coming out in 7th grade, experiencing discrimination at school, finding allies and advocates with teachers/administrators/friend groups, and developing voice to speak up; recommended ways for educators could address and accommodate queer students who are bullied and how to better support students.
- **PFLAG Manhattan Beach and Beach Cities Health District Event (Fall 2024):** Student panelist for LGBTQ youth; shared experiences being a member of the Queer community; talked about experience in leadership of an LGBTQ+ affirming club at school; discussed homophobia on campus and what LGBT issues need to be addressed in the future
- **National Center for Civil and Human Rights LGBTQ+ Institute IGNYTE Conference (Fall 2025):** Virtual student panelist presenting on HIV resource access in the Southern United States

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Yale Young Global Scholars Pre-College Summer Program

July 2026

- Attended Yale's highly selective summer academic program, completing the Politics, Law, & Economics (PLE) course focused on global governance, public policy, economics, and leadership through college-level seminars and collaborative discussions.

Tufts University Pre-College Summer Program

June 2025

International Relations Intensive Program (3 credits)

- Analyzed, debated, and solved pressing international issues (conflict and trade, public health, and diplomacy)
- Developed academic and real-world skills including conducting research, synthesizing concepts, drafting and revising persuasive prose, and evaluating sources
- Completed a college-level, independent research paper on international responses to HIV epidemic
- Took advanced Spanish language classes with a small cohort of students

Georgetown University Hoya Summer Session

July 2025

International Relations Academy

- Explored modern geopolitical issues and challenges, competing philosophical frameworks, ethical leadership and exertion of power, and U.S. humanitarian aid as a strategic tool to advance national interests by fostering global stability, promoting democracy and economic development, and combating global health threats

The Experiment in International Living: Southern Spain

July 2024

Spanish Language & Culture Program (homestay with Spanish family)

- Improved knowledge and conversational skills through this intense language and cultural immersion program

SOCIAL JUSTICE ENDEAVORS

Research Intern, UCLA Center for LGBTQ+ Advocacy, Research & Health

2025-present

- Research Intern (11th grade + Summer 2026 + 12th grade)
 - Analyze sociodemographic factors behind STDs among minority populations enrolled in the MACS/WIHS Combined Cohort Study, a major, long-term U.S. research project merging the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) for men and the Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS) to understand HIV's long-term impact; co-authored paper with principal investigator and other epidemiology researchers; submitted for publication (referenced above)
 - Assess trauma, mental health, and substance use impacts on HIV risk-taking behaviors among individuals living with and without HIV in the aftermath of the 2025 Los Angeles fires; collaborating with principal investigator and epidemiology researchers; presenting research abstract at conference (referenced above)
 - Currently working on another research paper as primary author; analyzing the correlations between US federal, state and local government administrations and their resulting impact on the medical health of the Queer communities during those administrations; target publication submission in Q3 2026
- Fundraising Committee Member and Teen Advocate (Summer 2025)
 - Raised \$150,000 to date by establishing fundraising committee composed of family, friends, and community allies to support the Center which faced 70% budget reductions due to millions of dollars of federal grants being cut by DOGE
 - Created/refined pitch deck and social media campaign to raise money from private donors; developing PR and communication outreach strategy raise awareness of the amazing life saving research the Center conducts to support the LGBTQ+ community

Co-Chair, Beach Cities Health District Youth Advisory Council

2022-present

- Co-lead council of 40 students who are selected as teen health ambassadors, connecting 10,000 students across three beach cities with resources and information at this preventative health agency focused on developing dynamic health and wellness programs, services, and facilities to promote health
- Serve as a voice for the LGBTQ+ youth community; speak on panels regarding youth issues

- Organize and preside over all monthly leadership meetings and youth council sessions; set strategy and develop programming to raise awareness of substance use, mental health, social justice, and sexual identity; discuss health issues impacting youth and address health concerns, such as stress from academic/peer pressure, time management, party culture, substance abuse, cyberbullying, social media, and self-image
- Presented a workshop on youth advocacy and legislation at the 2026 South Bay Leadership & Wellness Conference alongside members of Ted Lieu's Youth Advisory Council to an audience of ~100 community members and local leaders
- Presented research on marijuana legislation and legalization trends at the 2026 BCHD Semi-Annual Coalition Meeting and participated in a fishbowl discussion on teen substance access and use
- Panel moderator at BCHD Semi-Annual Coalition Meeting 2025 fishbowl discussion on teen experiences with alcohol and drug use; conducted Q&A with audience of school administrators, teachers, and parents
- Developed a series of educational videos and social media campaign on substance abuse, mental health, nutrition, and physical fitness for all high schools and middle schools in three beach cities
- Represent Youth Advisory Council at Beach Cities [Allcove](#) Community Center events

High School Intern, CA State Senator Ben Allen (District 24)

2024-2025

- LGBTQ+ Community Liaison - planned student events and resource fair
- Conducted research for Senator's position papers on legislation related to LGBTQ+ issues
- Supported legislative office operations through administrative tasks, data compilation, and event planning

Student Representative, Manhattan Beach Unified School District Equity, Diversity, Social Justice and Inclusion (EDSJI Committee)

2025-present

- One of 10 students selected to collaborate with school district administrators, educators, and peers on Equity, Diversity, Social Justice, and Inclusion Action Plan
- Conducted and mediated teacher coaching session, offering tips/role-playing to help them understand how to address classroom situations; educate peers about the diversity on our campus and how to stand up to hate
- Contributed to conversations about the current status of discrimination on school campus, ways to involve students in diversity based activities

Leadership Team, Mira Costa "No Place for Hate" Committee

2025-present

- Asked by MCHS Administration to be a student representative for Anti-Defamation League to help plan events that contribute to a safer campus environment and combat acts of hate on campus and throughout the community, in response to increased homophobia/antisemitism/racism
- Educate high school peers about the diversity on our campus and how to stand up to hate, which has been prevalent at school and throughout the community
- Create engaging messaging through assemblies/videos that promote equality and unity to peers
- Panelist for Voices of Unity fall 2025 assembly on hate and student voices against discrimination

Founder and Co-President, Mira Costa Social Advocacy Club

2025-present

- Formed club to activate students to be public advocates for social justice-related issues facing our community
- Organized & led a student walkout against unethical ICE practices rallying 900 students in a peaceful protest
- Help make our community a better place for all regardless of sex, gender, race, economic level or orientation
- Teach students how to lobby for the causes they care about
- Planned [1st Annual South Bay Queer Prom](#) for all South Bay Community high school students May, 2026. Recruited at high school Gay-Straight Alliance and other LGBTQ+ clubs; fundraised for decorations & food

Secretary & Treasurer, Golden State Readers

2024-present

- Edit newsletter, organize meetings, take notes, and handle outreach to members for this organization that ensures literary freedom by preventing book bans across schools in CA and nationally
- Organize and plan logistics for virtual and in-person events, such as Freedom To Read summits and National Banned Books Week campaign

Vice President, Mira Costa Banned Books Club**2023-present**

- Collaborate with leadership team and membership to draw attention to banned and challenged books with themes related to race, LGBTQ+ issues, and their place in history
- Promote awareness of banned books and encourage counter censorship by making banned literature accessible and fostering dialogue, uniting readers from diverse backgrounds
- Conduct monthly book discussions on banned books, discussing themes, reasons for ban, and flawed reasons
- Helped to plan and manage annual Banned Books Week awareness campaign by wrapping caution tape on the backpacks of Mira Costa students

Crisis Director, Mira Costa Model United Nations**2023-present**

- Member of national championship debate team for the past 3 years
- Invited to compete at top conferences, including UCLA and Canadian high school national championship
- Research topics to understand background, write position papers, propose solutions, debate foreign policy, and negotiate with other delegates to formulate a resolution to solve current world issues
- Crisis Director (12) - appointed to one of the top leadership positions in charge of the Los Angeles Invitational Model UN Conference, a conference with over 1,000 delegate
- Crisis 2 Committee Co-Chair (11) & Committee Legal (10) - collaborated and organized conference with top leadership team to ensure smooth operation of debate of 1,100 delegates; performed extensive research to compose topic synopsis regarding the Assassination of Julius Caesar (Anti-Caesar) and Crisis 2 Arab Springs committees, and ensured smooth operation of debate of around 30 delegates; graded position papers, mediated debate, and scored delegates based on performance in speaking and diplomacy skills in committee negotiations

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council Member, Manhattan Beach Youth Council**2025-present**

- Chosen as one of 50 high school students to participate after competitive interview application process for this selective leadership cultivation program
- Network with community business leaders to explore various career paths (Finance, Entrepreneurship, Entertainment, AI, Law)
- Collaborate in project-based group activities toward solving real-world business challenges
- Took Clifton Strengths assessment to gain understanding of natural strengths: competition, learner, futuristic, maximizer, and context

Conference Leader, Tobacco-Use Prevention Education Youth Leadership**2024-present**

- Presenter of the LGBTQ+ Advocacy workshop, but the 2025 event was canceled due to LA Fires
- Participated in workshops focusing on educating student leaders on building awareness of LGBTQ+ issues as well as teen mental health issues

Mentor & Translator, Kids In Need of Defense (KIND), Los Angeles, CA**2024-2025**

- Used Spanish language skills to help mentor an unaccompanied minor seeking amnesty in the United States
- Attended meetings and immigration hearing with client and pro bono attorneys
- Offered emotional support during client's acclimation to the United States

HONORS & AWARDS

- **Certificate of Congressional Recognition** awarded by Congressman Ted Lieu in honor of my leadership in advancing equality, visibility and advocacy for LGBTQ+ communities and for my philanthropic leadership and community engagement on behalf of the UCLA Center for LGBTQ+ Advocacy, Research & Health.
- Recipient of UCLA C-LARAH's 2026 **Meritorious LGBTQ+ Service Award** in honor of my meaningful, enduring and high impact contributions to sexual and gender minority rights, visibility and advocacy.
- **Certificate of Recognition** awarded May 15, 2026 by the Manhattan Beach City Council and Mayor David

Lessor in honor of Jonah's dedicated research and fundraising efforts for UCLA C-LARAH

- Winner of the **University of Rochester Frederick Douglas & Susan B. Anthony Award** as a high school junior in 2026. Demonstrated a commitment to understanding and addressing difficult social issues, leadership & dedication to community action, strong grades & rigorous courses taken in the humanities & social sciences
- Mira Costa School awards: AP Scholar, Principal's Honor Roll, Scholar Athlete 9th grade
- California Scholarship Federation-On track for life membership in a statewide academic honors organization
- Model UN Awards:
 - 1st place (gavel) at National High School Model UN, New York (3/26) (topic: UN peacekeeper training)
 - Honorable Mention (3rd pl.) at Canadian High School's MUN, Vancouver, Canada - Internationally ranked conference. (topic: Vietnam War Crisis)
 - Outstanding Delegate at UCLA BruinMUN (11/ 24) - International Level Award (topic: Mercado Libre Board of Directors)
 - Outstanding Delegate at Surf City MUN XXIII (2/26) (topic: Cold War)
 - Verbal Commendation at the U.C Davis MUN (topic: Ming Dynasty)
 - Outstanding Achievement at Santa Margarita MUN (9/25) (Topic: Post-Conflict Recovery)
 - 1st place (gavel) at Surf City MUN XXII (2/25) (topic: Crisis Committee-World War 1)
 - Outstanding Delegate at Edison MUN (10/24) (topic: UN Peacekeeper Violence)
 - Commendation at Tustin MUN (11/25) (topics: Reproductive Healthcare Access & Femicide In 3rd World Countries)
 - Verbal Accommodation at Claremont McKenna MUN Conference (4/26) (topic: 1300's Black Plague)
 - 'Best Dias' at Los Angeles Invitational MUN (Dec 2025) Crisis 2 Committee Assassination of Julius Caesar, Anti-Caesar)

PRESS COVERAGE

- [Cover Story Feature](#) — **Southbay Magazine, 2/26**. Profiled as an LGBTQ+ youth advocate & researcher, recognized for raising \$85,000+ for UCLA LGBTQ+ research & contributing to academic publications
- [Featured for Organizing Student Walkout](#) — **Manhattan Beach News, 2/25**. Co-led a peaceful Mira Costa student walkout protesting ICE policies, mobilizing ~900 students & coordinating with administrators to ensure lawful civic engagement.
- [Front page of UCLA Daily Bruin](#) - **UCLA Daily Bruin, 4/10/26**. Picture of Jonah Segil, Congressman Ted Lieu (D-CA), Dr Matthew Mimiaga, Miyashita Ochoa & Jack Feng showing all the UCLA Center for LGBTQ+ Advocacy, Research & Health award winners and the Congressman.
- [Feature Story](#) - **The Beach Reporter/Daily Breeze, 4/16/26**. Profiled as a community advocate and winner of Congressional Recognition and UCLA C-LARAH award. Outlines my community and philanthropic leadership.
- [Featured in UCLA Fielding School of Public Health News: UCLA Fielding School of Public Health Website, 5/13/26](#). C-LARAH intern Jonah Segil was honored for leading a fundraising campaign that raised nearly \$150,000 for the center
- [Featured in Mira Costa School Newspaper: La Vista School Paper, 5/22/26](#). Profile piece in the Mira Costa School newspaper on both my fundraising and research success with UCLA C-LARAH.
- [Featured in The Daily Breeze: Queer prom looks to be integral part of South Bay teen culture, 6/1/26](#). Launched 1st Queer prom for Southbay teens organized by my Southbay Social Advocacy Coalition
- [Featured in Transformative Investment Section, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health Magazine, 6/26](#). Launch of the "Join Jonah" School of Public Health fundraising campaign

OTHER INTERESTS

- Languages: Native English speaker, advanced Spanish
- Piano since age 8
- Avid geography buff and study maps