

Blake Schrand – Personal Statement

Civic Leadership Internship Program

I am applying for the Civic Leadership Internship Program because I see it as a chance to expand my knowledge and skills on what it means to be a servant leader. This is an opportunity to use the skills I have developed from past positions to do something to help those in my community. I have been lucky enough to lead teams in environments that challenged me to become a strong motivator and strategic decision maker.

As one of the Tri-Directors for Mizzou Homecoming, I have had the privilege of leading one of the largest student traditions in the nation. Directing a team of 38 student workers on the Homecoming Steering Committee across multiple sub committees has taught me how to manage individuals of diverse backgrounds with a structured plan. The position required organizing large-scale events which taught me how to inspire teams, handle complex logistics, and make decisions that impact thousands of students for the better.

Previously, I served as Recruitment Chair for my fraternity, Alpha Gamma Sigma. During this role I led the largest recruitment class since our chapter's founding in 1921. That experience taught me how to connect with others, build relationships that are long lasting and make an inclusive environment for all potential new members. Coordinating recruitment strategies and forming new outreach events deepened my skills in leading with charisma, while having a structured vision that others could support for mutual success.

My first taste of political activism was as a door to door canvasser for Eric Schmidt's campaign race to become our senator. Within this role I approached over 150 voters a day at their homes and workplaces. This role taught me how to interact with people and influence them to have a possible changed perspective on policies. During this race I engaged with more potential voters than any other canvasser in the state.

My experience with Schmidt's campaign led me to pursue direct sales leveraging my ability to effectively communicate door to door with Patriarch Roofing.

Professionally, my work as a Project Manager for Patriarch Roofing has further developed my leadership abilities to secure real world business deals and personally oversee over a million dollars worth of residential and commercial projects. These skills I have learned in this role directly transfer to being a successful leader that knows the value individuals provide to a team. Working in construction reinforced my determination for success through integrity which I work towards in any role in which I find myself.

This internship could be the next step in continuing my journey on being a leader that leaves an impact in my community. This is a chance to learn from emerging leaders in professional roles I strive to someday fill. I am confident that with my experiences, adaptability and striving to be the

best servant Leader I can be will help me take full advantage of any opportunity finding how to best grow from it.