

Throughout my teenage years, I've learned to question the everyday operations that support the everyday living of me and millions of others across the nation. How does everything seem to work together when it comes to logistics, operations, economics, and policy? It has been through my first semester here at the University of Missouri where I've grown increasingly fascinated by how economic systems, data, and policy intersect to shape, change, and support our lives. As a Finance and Economics double major, I've spent my time studying and learning how financial and economic decision-making impacts businesses, markets, and individuals. However, I've realized that behind every statistic or policy lies a civic responsibility, a duty, to ensure that people and communities are benefited. The Civic Leaders Internship Program presents an opportunity for me to connect all of my interests and apply my analytical, financial background to public service and see how policy and leadership impact the lives of many.

I'm drawn to CLIP because it's more than just government experience—it offers me a perspective which I've never seen before. Whichever department or sector I am placed in, I'll be given the chance to learn more about dozens of topics that pique my interest such as regulation, infrastructure, economics, and policy. I also will be given the opportunity to see the decisions that impact the lives of individuals in many communities, including my own, and learn how to become not only a better decision-maker but a better leader. I'll learn how these decisions balance efficiency and equity, developing me into a sharper-minded individual. Additionally, my current experience in data and economics, along with my future experience learning through coursework, will prove to be important in the implementation of policy and regulation. My ultimate goal since arriving here in Columbia has been to be involved in my community and create a lasting impact, goals which CLIP will directly help me achieve. I've gotten a start in getting involved and creating impact. I've joined the Phi Kappa Theta fraternity, taking part in philanthropic service events such as trash pickups and fundraisers. I'm also part of the Trulaske Consulting Association, sharpening my critical thinking and analysis skills. I intend to become more involved on campus as my time here in Columbia increases, and together, my experiences can contribute meaningfully to an environment that values both public purpose and goals.

Ultimately, I'm seeking this opportunity because I want to serve while also learning. I want to bring a unique perspective that combines business and civic thinking—someone who sees economic growth and public good as partners, not opponents. This experience would not only advance my professional and career goals but also shape the kind of leader and person I aspire to become in the future.