

Through my participation in the Civic Leaders Internship Program, I hope to fully immerse myself in the real world of state politics to glean practical knowledge and skills I could never learn solely in the classroom. As a political science student, I spend the majority of my time listening to lectures, reading about, or discussing current and past political events; however, I spend very little time using my knowledge in hands-on situations. This spring, I aspire to support what I am studying with real world applications. By interning in the capitol, I would have the opportunity to talk with legislators, gain further insight to how government agencies function, and experience the culture surrounding the career path I am most interested in.

At its core, public service demands someone who works well with the people. My extensive background in customer service and volunteer work provide me with a foundation of professionalism and poise when interacting with the public. During my time working at a call center, I learned how to de-escalate tense situations and actively listen to individuals' concerns. Volunteering at my local library taught me how to carry genuine conversations with people vastly different from myself. I ultimately want to use my communication skills and passion for the public in this internship and my future career.

This opportunity would contribute to my future success by providing me with a pathway to develop my professional network and explore possible careers. I am hopeful that the connections I would cultivate in this internship would serve as mentors and links between my college education and future career. I am also hopeful that being directly in the action can guide my future path and provide clarity to where I would find the most fulfillment in my future career. No matter what though, the skills that I gain from this experience will undoubtedly serve me wherever I go, whether that be public service, nonprofit work, or even law.