

In an age of increasing political polarization and distrust in institutions, policies and how they are implemented are becoming progressively important. I want to be part of the next generation that helps rebuild civic dialogue and trust, and this internship offers a unique opportunity to learn how real political solutions are shaped. I have never truly identified with either side of the political spectrum, always agreeing and disagreeing with values and opinions on both sides. Because of this, I am able to take a step back and hear everyone out on why they choose to identify with the political side they choose. Finding a community through political clubs and organizations at the University of Missouri that shares these same views has been extremely helpful in helping my interest in politics grow. These clubs became a very helpful outlet outside of my classes to increase my knowledge of politics on the federal level as well as the state level. Because I have needed to work part time to have money for groceries as well as other personal expenses, I have not yet had the time to commit to an internship. However, my time working food service jobs has taught me many valuable skills that I think will help me succeed in an internship in a state senator or representative's office. Through my job at Plaza 900, a dining hall at Mizzou, I have learned the importance of finding balance between work, class, and extracurriculars. I have successfully kept high grades and participated in organizations on campus while still working seventeen hours a week. I have also acquired the crucial skill of teamwork. At my job, I am on a team of diverse individuals who all work towards the same goal of satisfying the customers who dine in our establishment. We all communicate with each other to ensure a comfortable working environment as well as a comfortable environment for our customers. While I learned how to be part of a team, I also grew as an individual through my part time work. I always show up to my shifts on time and do not leave until the very last task is done. I learned the importance of being a reliable employee who always shows up and does not leave the crew with one less pair of hands. While I am on the clock, I make an effort to be a dedicated employee who is always physically and mentally present, especially when talking to customers. Communicating with customers, answering their questions and addressing their concerns, has taught me how to interact with the public, which I believe will be a useful skill for this internship. Because of my interest in civil

discussion and politics and the skills I have acquired through working part time jobs, I believe I could be a valuable intern.