

**Office of Assembly Member Tom Berryhill  
Summer 2008**

My internship has been quite an experience. On my first day I was completely lost. I had no idea what was going on in the Capitol and it seemed like no one else knew what was going on either. I had to go out of my comfort zone and ask all of the seemingly “stupid” questions to figure out where my place was in the grand scheme of the Capitol food chain. My tasks expanded from getting the mail and answering the phone during the first week of my internship to filling in my chief of staff on essential information regarding bills just seconds before my member would go and vote for them.

This internship has not been easy. Aside from the nine to five schedule (which truly made me feel like a sleep deprived adult) and the surplus of irate constituents that bombard the office with incoherent phone calls, the work load given on a daily basis has proven to be the most difficult. Yet, I would not trade that in for anything. This internship has toughened skin and made me realize that it takes hard work to get the best results. Who wouldn't want that? This internship is for someone who is willing to devote all of their mind and energy in order to get salient results.

What I would have liked to have known is that patience is a skill to keep at hand. I was very anxious to land an internship when I started this program and during the first few weeks I was so eager to say yes to any offer. What I did not know at the time is that it is not a race to get an internship because one that you will love will come eventually. Patience will be rewarded—keep that in mind when making your internships selections.