

California Democratic Party Summer 08

This internship was a very valuable learning experience. I was able to experience an office working environment as well as interact with professionals who have been working in elective politics for many years. I have had the opportunity to learn from several of those people, giving me a wide range of knowledge that will certainly be valuable in anything I do. Not to mention, this internship along with the experience I will gain working in the fall campaign will definitely make me more attractive to employers. Overall, this internship was more important to my education than any class I have taken.

The tasks I was given were project-oriented rather than assistance-oriented. By that, I mean that my tasks were part of a larger project I was assigned, rather than simply assisting someone in the office complete their tasks. I enjoyed this style more, because it made me feel like I was really accomplishing something. Sometimes I did assist people in the office on their tasks, but those tasks were also rewarding, because I was able to see my contributions to the overall project when it was completed.

The office had an informal atmosphere which was helpful when considering how stressful an office like this one could become during a campaign. It really helped foster a spirit of teamwork which makes us all want to work that much harder for each other. We would all have cake when it was someone's birthday. One of the favorite gathering spots in the office is the candy jar by the front desk. Often times, all the interns would go to lunch together.

This internship made me more excited about a career in public service. Although, I'm not so certain I want to pursue a career in elective politics. I'm not a very social person by nature, so I was looking for something that would not require attending a lot of public events or meeting a lot of new people. All the careers in elective politics seem to be like this. I think that exploring this career path my start out in a way I like but ultimately move into a job I might not like.

On the other hand, this internship really made me like the idea of a career in public service. I like the idea of being able to help people with the work that I do. Through this internship, I really felt like I was helping to make a positive difference. It was a really gratifying feeling. I now realize that any career I do must have this characteristic.

I learned that I really liked web editing and blogging through this experience. I would like to pursue something like that in my career. I also learned how to use the Kintera system to edit web pages. That should be useful if I do end up in a career that requires some web editing. Although, I would definitely like to do some blogging. If I can't do it as part of my profession, I may start doing it recreationally.

I would recommend this internship to future scholar interns. It was very interesting and rewarding. They go out of their way to make everyone feel welcome. We got a private tour of the Capitol with a very knowledgeable docent which was very interesting. Also, they make an extra effort to find our area of interest and match work to those interests. It's also a good opportunity to get to know people in the Democratic Party. Anyone interested in networking will find this internship to be very rewarding.

One of the things I learned through this internship is how much time it takes to answer all the e-mail that one can get in any given day. I never thought it could take as long as it did. It was good to learn now, because I learned how to sort what was important and respond more quickly to those that were important. I can't even imagine how my supervisor or his supervisor has time to get through everything they get.

For a while, it was getting difficult to keep up with all the projects I was given. At one point, I had three major projects going at once. However, I was able to finish, and things calmed down a bit. I think it really demonstrated my ability to handle what I was given and really impressed my supervisor. I think it really helped get me a job when the internship is over.

It was a little disheartening for me though when one of the projects I was working on got discontinued. I spent a lot of time working on it, but it just didn't work out. It was nothing that I did, but certain circumstances led to a change in strategy. It was a good thing to experience as an intern, because I'm sure it will happen again, many times in my career.

One of the best experiences I had was going outside the office to the Secretary of State's Office. I got to do some research that couldn't be done from my desk which really made my project that much better. The interesting part was that it was all by accident. I was at the Capitol for a private tour and the Secretary's Office happened to be on the way back to the office.

Overall, this experience has been one of the best things I've ever done. It resulted in a job which was all that I could have hoped for. The UCCS program really helped me in my transition from college into the working world. Before I attended the program, I was really worried about finding a job and getting started with my post-college life. UCCS allowed me to experiment with what I like and really gave me an idea of what I want in a job. I was able to experience a lot of the pressures and rewards of a professional environment with enough space to make mistakes and learn. I cannot imagine making this transition without the experiences and opportunities I've had in the UCCS program.