

**Office of Assembly Member Joe Coto
Spring 2009**

I believe that any intern who wants an internship with a lot of responsibility and a busy day should intern in the office of assembly member Joe Coto. In my internship here I had the responsibilities of an actual staffer. I would come in everyday from 9:30AM to 5PM and would do office activities at first. In the beginning they had me do simple tasks such as creating spreadsheets with different sorts of data, but later I was also able to work on some special tasks forces and projects that dealt with policies on diabetes. I was also able to staff my own bill, AB 122 and follow it through the legislature. I am happy to say that my bill passed in the state assembly and is now off to the senate. I also researched the bills the member would agree to cosign on.

Overall, I believe an internship is only as good as you make it and I feel that I had a rewarding internship because I tried my hardest to get the full Sacramento experience in and outside of the capitol. My stay in Sacramento also provided me with an opportunity to work on a campaign. I think it just took some initiative from me and I was able to phone bank for Gilbert Cedillo who is currently the chair of the Latino Legislative caucus. I was able to work on his campaign on my own, and it turns out that my office was very supportive of his campaign as well. Together we flew to El Monte and canvassed and campaign for the state wide special elections. I think it was my initial interest and my ability to get involved in politics that presented me with the opportunity to work directly with this campaign. I really wanted hands on experience on the policy process, but I was able to learn a lot about campaigning and what it takes to be elected.