

**Office of Lt. Governor John Garamendi
Fall 2007**

I was hired to work at the Office of Lt. Governor John Garamendi in October 2007, as an intern for the Commission for Economic Development. My direct supervisor was CED Deputy Director, Michele Gault. For the first few months of my experience at the Lt. Governor's office, various people in the office gave me tasks. I soon developed a sort of loyalty to my supervisor. My work this quarter has been more directly related to the objectives of the CED. I say more directly related because my work for other people in the office is all oriented towards furthering the Lt. Governor's ambitions, so they are all related

My tasks have included researching data, attending conferences, attending hearings, and attending meetings all for which I drafted briefings or memos. I helped coordinate and plan for the visit of the President of the Basque Country and his delegation. This involved a lot of networking, a lot of phone conversations, organization, and prioritization. I also dedicated some personal time to this by seeking out people in person. I did this on the basis that if I showed them respect, relayed my dedication to the project, and was personable, people might be more responsive (it worked!). I attended meetings with the Lt. Governor and the New Zealand Ambassador. I compiled information about the advisory committees. I attended the CED quarterly meeting and drafted the meeting minutes following the event. I completed many other tasks but these were the most important to me or required sincere commitment.

This experience made me more excited about a career in public or community service. I recognized a passion for helping people. I enjoyed being in the government position better than my previous community service experiences because I feel that my work was oriented towards a long-term solution rather than an immediate, temporal one. I appreciated interacting with various personality types and networking. I also liked that there were a variety of disciplines I helped people under. The help had to do with economics, society, law, education, health, networking, infrastructure, and networking. As you can see, economic development is a complex concept.

At my site I developed many professional and personal competencies. I have improved my understanding of rhetorical sensitivity. I have developed an understanding of moderate self-disclosure, while still sharing enough to allow a relationship to develop. By leaps and bounds I have improved my confidence and communication skills. I have improved my skills of organization, coordination, and prioritization. I have further developed my diligence, reliability, and ambition.

I would recommend this site to a future scholar intern. Working at the Lt. Governor's office has been like working on a campaign. Altogether, the experience has taught me a lot about what it means to help a politician advance his ambitions and reputation. It has reminded me that my behavior is a reflection of the institutions I am associated with. I learned something different for each task I completed.

This quarter I had some exciting and challenging experiences as a UCCS scholar intern. The biggest challenge was taking classes at UC Davis, taking the seminar in Sacramento, and working concurrently. I often had to prioritize one over another especially when opportunities presented themselves. For example, my supervisor is part of the Sacramento branch of the World Affairs Council that organized a lecture by Justice Richard Goldstone. This was important to me because the topic was of interest, and my boss invited me. However, I had class in Davis that night so I had to decide which was more important, and how I would compensate for the sacrifice I had to make.

An exciting experience was receiving an invitation to an annual international high-speed rail conference in Germany from one of the contacts I established through work. I sent my resume and a letter of interest detailing who I am, why I was interested, and what I could contribute, to a man at the European Affairs office. Subsequently, I received notification of my acceptance to the student program, meaning, I would be attending the conference with other international students. Travel and accommodation expenses were paid for. I am the only attending student from the U.S.

Another exciting experience is looking back and seeing how much I had grown and matured in the past few months. UCCS gave me map, and I found my way.