



APAICS

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APAICS ANNOUNCES 2008 SUMMER INTERNSHIP APPLICATIONS

Washington, D.C. - APAICS Chair David L. Kim was pleased to announce applications for the 2008 Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) summer internship program are available. Interested students will be able to get the application form at www.apaics.org. The deadline is January 31, 2008.

The APAICS Summer Internship Program encourages the political and civic involvement of young Asian Pacific Islander Americans, fosters their interest in careers in politics and public policy, and develops their leadership skills.

Each year, APAICS selects up to 10 undergraduate students for a first-hand learning experience in American politics. Interns may be placed in congressional offices, federal agencies, and non-profit organizations in the Washington area. Placements last summer included congressional offices in the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, and the Departments of Justice, Labor, Treasury, and the Small Business Administration. Through a series of seminars, interns learn about national Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) advocacy organizations. In addition to networking with other organizations, the interns will participate in programs involving peers from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF). The CHCI, CBCF, and APAICS are part of the Congressional Tri-Caucus. There were almost 90 summer interns working representing the Tri-Caucus.

Most of the local Asian organizations hold weekly meetings and receptions in order to provide a forum to learn about issues affecting the APIA community and to have other APIA students meet each other while interning in Washington.

APAICS Summer Intern '07 Parasa Chanramy summed up her experiences in her final journal: "I reflected on my goals...learning more about lobbying and advocacy, discovering the Cambodian community in Washington, D.C.; learning more about what I can do for my college campus and my community; and seeing what it is like to be a representative in the U.S. Congress. I know that I have accomplished these goals. Not only have I reached my expectations, I feel that I have surpassed them by exploring accessibility to higher education among students of color, dancing at the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival, opening my mind to law school, and learning how to be more confident in my experiences while pursuing my education and career goals. This experience of 'daring to know' other community leaders (especially leaders with a similar background as myself) who are breaking that glass ceiling and working toward social justice and equality inspires me to take advantage of the opportunities that come my way. For me, it was difficult to say farewell to the APAICS staff and interns, as well as Congressman David Wu's Office. I am forever grateful for this opportunity to be one of the APAICS interns this summer."

(Chanramy is a junior at Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon.)

APAICS is a non-partisan, non-profit, educational organization whose mission is to promote the participation of APIAs in the political process. Through our summer internship program, APAICS hopes to encourage the political and civic involvement of young people to foster their interest in political and public policy-related careers, and to develop their leadership skills.

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