

My Internship Experience with the GOVT Department

Kiara Lynn Garcia

Abstract

I am currently enrolled in a credit bearing internship facilitated through the office of Experiential Learning and Career Management Center (ELCM). My internship is at Millersville University's Government and Political Affairs Department under the internship supervisor, Dr. Kirsten Nakjavani Bookmiller. My internship position as a Special Project Intern entails assisting Dr. Bookmiller in accomplishing academic projects throughout the semester. My major project involvement has been assisting in the coordination of the North American Humanitarian Response Summit Initiative (NAHRI), a project funded by the American Red Cross (ARC).

Reflections

I have found through my experience that there is no better way to learn than through active participation! By participating in an internship, students gain vital, transferable skill sets that employers deem imperative in the 21st century workplace. Without realizing it, students who complete an internship are ahead of the game making them a well-rounded candidate. An internship is the perfect environment where students can further hone their professionalism while under the supervision of both a professor and a professional. It is the kind of environment where students hold the spotlight within the host organization. It is the unique timing where students can learn the impact of our work through trial and error.



Flags representing the participation of the American, Canadian and Mexican Red Cross Societies at the NAHRI joint International Disaster Law-Working Group meeting held February 2019 at MU.

For instance, before this internship, I was not familiar with the field of emergency

management and international disaster relief coordination. Nonetheless, in my brief time, I was able to gain knowledge about the field of emergency management, improve my research and intercommunication skills, and utilize software like Evernote and Excel. I also held responsibility of establishing the best first impression for our international visitors. Held in February 2019, the MU NAHRI team had to coordinate and host a joint International Disaster Law-Working Group meeting, an expert meet among leading international professionals with the focus on improving North American mutual assistance following a disaster. As a result, I gained the opportunity to network with international experts from across the world and with professionals from the American, Canadian and Mexican Red Cross Societies. Above all, my tasks varied weekly and were crucial to the outcome of the meeting and research initiative. I had to create name badges, make copies of the agendas, and verify attendee's information, for instance.



From the left, is Kiara Lynn Garcia at the registration table with Emma Weber, NAHRI Project Manager, for the joint International Disaster Law-Working Group meeting held February 2019 at MU.

Conclusion

When all the experts finally arrived at Millersville University on a wintery Wednesday morning, I was able to welcome, learn from, and network with each of them. My expectations were exceeded by the terrific outcome of my experience. I became aware of these enriching opportunities at the Experimental Learning and Career Management office located at the Bedford House; internships can unexpectedly turn into a long-time career, but I would have never known of the possibilities of employment until I gave it a try. I look forward to continuously being exposed to new topics related to the field of international studies at my internship.

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