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PSU Washington DC Program – Essay 1

The hub of all political and current events in America and most of the world, Washington, DC holds all that a Political Scientist such as myself has to offer. With its bustling hubs of culture, wide variety of politics and institutions that direct our society, and its diverse pool of people from around the world, the District of Columbia boasts many unique experiences for all – interning college student and politician alike. Penn State's Stanley E. Degler Washington DC program allows for students such as myself to have the opportunity to tap into all of the experiences and resources the city has to offer. As a political science major with a dual minor in German and business, DC gives me the opportunity to flex the muscles of my classwork and knowledge I have acquired from my major and apply it to different situations and apply it to important real life choices, making this program the most desirable for me to be accepted to.

In applying to this program, I hope to accomplish these three objectives: to gain valuable real life experience towards my major and minors, apply and practice theories and knowledge I have gained in the classroom to real life issues in our Nation's Capital, and to advocate myself and become known to people, organizations, and companies in the world. As a Political Science major with a dual minor in German and business, there is no better place to gain experience and knowledge than Washington, DC – the hub of political life in the United States. With Senator camps, political institutions such as the Department of Education, news agencies such as Fox or NBC all within DC, any direction I could chose would show me how to create studies about politics, see how international relations are affected by the foreign policy of a President, and so

many other topics that feed directly into my major. Having taken classes such as Political Science 14 which discusses International Relations, Political Science 10 which dissects the Scientific Studies of Politics, I have a solid base of government interactions with citizens and nations abroad and how studies affect policies. Even in my High School career, after taking AP European History, AP US History, and AP Comparative Government, I have good knowledge of other governing systems abroad and how they act in the international theatre.

While I began my college career as a Mechanical Engineer with a minor in mathematics, I always kept my love for politics and government and quickly switched when I realized that engineering was not for me. While this has not given me plenty of time as a Political Science major, it has given me a broader understanding of the scientific method and how I can apply it to experiments and jobs done by people with my major. For example, I could obtain an internship with Representative Crenshaw (R-TX), and work in his camp where I would conduct experiments to see how people he represents view immigration tactics being used by our government today. I would be using skills taught to me in my High School and College courses to find statistics to help make better policy, an absolute dream for me that would give me a better understanding of the lessons taught in school. I also wish to succeed in self-advocating to potential employers in DC that need Political Scientists. Albeit odd, ever since I was a kid, I have dreamed of living and working in DC. By obtaining an internship through this program, I would be able to work with big name companies and make myself known to them and show them how hardworking I am and prepared to work I am. It is not lost on my how my generation is known as lazy and not invested when given a duty, but I love to work hard and become invested in work I love, which only makes me wish to secure a better future by meeting and talking to potential employers.

Easily the most important portion of an internship application are the skills and qualities that one already has and would bring with them into the internship. They help to make someone who they are and shape how choices are made and thoughts are made too. For me, I bring meaningful leadership experience from my position as the Vice President of Programming at the Lion 90.7 FM WKPS State College and as a youth representative to my church council back home. As the VP of Programming, I am in charge of keeping a schedule of all live shows we have, along with creating advertisements for those shows and other events happening here at Penn State. This position also holds me responsible for ensuring the on-air quality of all shows. As an FCC licensed Student Radio Station, we must abide by all FCC guidelines that apply to language and professionalism. If a show breaches this, I must go and reprimand them and ensure it does not happen again. This has taught me the importance of managing many different people and shows, along with managing a schedule and ensuring everyone has up to date information being aired.

One of the least emphasized things in today's society is people and interaction skills, both of which I have and are very well developed. I have held jobs at Old Navy as a salesman, Soprano's Pizza as a Chef, Costco Wholesale as a cart pusher and bagger, and here at Penn State's Bryce Jordan Center and Eisenhower Auditorium as a Stage crew member. This variety of jobs in both retail and technology has led to me interacting and meeting many people. This honed my communication skills and my ability to understand different people's backgrounds, thus giving me the ability to form nearly instant connections with others no matter where they are from. This has helped me to become comfortable in all scenarios, and allowed for me to be able to effectively communicate ideas and thoughts, unlike many of my peers who fear eye contact and dialogues with strangers they are not familiar with.

I also have a very high work ethic, which as generic as it sounds is of the utmost importance to an internship. As a second generation American, the person who I looked up to was vastly different from most; My Opa (German for Grandfather) developed so much of who I am today; He gave me his work ethic and taught me what it means to be an effective employee. As a German immigrant who came over in the 1950's, my Opa was a baker who was never given anything in life and worked for everything. Taken by the Russians as a POW in World War Two, he lost all of his possessions and came to America with an accordion, three dollars, and the suit he wore over; Everything he had he earned and worked for. From an early age he taught me what it meant to be a good employee with a good work ethic – to be at work early to clock in on time, and leave when the job is done, no sooner or later. He showed me how no matter if you're a janitor or the President of a nation, your work should always reflect who you are, and that means giving it your all to get the best outcome. I do not slack in any project I take on, and I always make sure that the work is done to the best of my abilities as a person, and as a Political Science major.

In applying to the Pennsylvania State University's Stanley E Degler Washington DC Program, I am looking for an internship where I can become involved with the constituency of an area, work somewhere that I can help to form public policies, or in a place where I could extrapolate and explore data. I wish to hold an internship position where I can apply the skills gained from my political science classes, public speaking classes, and even my previous engineering classes to make a discovery about a piece of legislature, conduct a study, or anything to ensure the betterment of the people around me, which I think is the best way to gain a respected societal standing and valuable experience for my major.