

Alexandra Sasha Kalika

9/18/19

This internship has been a program I have looked forward to applying to since I started at Penn State. I first heard about this program at my accepted students day program for communication students a year and a half ago. Talking more recently with my academic advisor the conclusion we were able to reach was that not only would this fit my schedule but the experience in itself would be invaluable. I have wanted to apply to this program mainly because even though I am double majoring in Public Relations and Political Science meaning I am interested in working in both fields, moving to D.C. and working on Capitol Hill has been a big dream of mine and this program could provide me with the certainty that this is my future goal or not what I want. From this program I hope to gain experience in two fields I love, have a semester filled with new experiences only D.C. could provide, and continue building my network in and out of school. Networking and experience are very important to my future and is an objective I have when applying to this program but living in D.C. and learning what that means for my future is incredibly valuable as well. These three components are things that only this program can offer me and I hope I get the chance to explore them. I believe there are certain unique qualities I can bring to an internship sponsor, these include dedication, charisma and flexibility. Dedication would be key for me to bring into an internship because it would me not only to be committed and hardworking about the work I do but also about the cause which would make for higher quality end products. I am charismatic in whatever I do, whether it is leading a discussion with peers or at a job or internship, I have been told I have this energy in the way I conduct myself that makes others want to be around me. This past semester I worked as a New Student Orientation Leader at Penn State and being around families all day was an interesting experience because everyone was at a different stage of the college transition process, my job was to always come in and teach them about the values of our community. I took that job and decided to come in with a

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positive attitude and smile everyday and make each individual feel cared for. That paid off because now my former students still come up to me around campus wanting to chat about their lives or parents message me about how much I helped them feel comfortable. I want to bring this attitude into whatever internship or environment may be. Flexibility I wanted to showcase because the work in an internship might be constantly changing and it is better to learn to adapt than to resist. In my internship I would be happy to take on many different roles even without being asked because of the learning that could occur. Getting to the types of internships I am interested in there are quite a few. They are not specific to any organization yet more to an idea of what I might want to do in the future. I would either like to have an internship for a news media company or in a lobbying firm. In a news media company I could be doing public relations work or social media work depending on the task assigned to me, which would give me experience either way. Lobbying has been a path I have only found several years ago after watching the movie "Miss Sloane" and researching lobbyists I was really inspired by not only the work they do but also the way they do it. These are two very different fields within the communications and political science realm. The reason they are so different is because even though I am a sophomore I feel that if I intern for one of these organizations I will be able to deduce which field or specific career I want to continue pursuing. I also am really pushing for this program because I have two friends who have done it in the past and told me how meaningful of an experience they have had going through these internships but also the experience of living in D.C. for a semester. Overall I would like to conclude by saying this program would be the chance of a lifetime for me, because at no other time would I get to learn so much in such a culture hub of a city. Everything from being just across the river from the monuments to exploring all of the

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museums in D.C. is something I look forward to. I hope to get the chance to show how well I can succeed in this program either this upcoming summer or fall.