

T_{HE}
W_{ASHINGTON}
C_{ENTER}



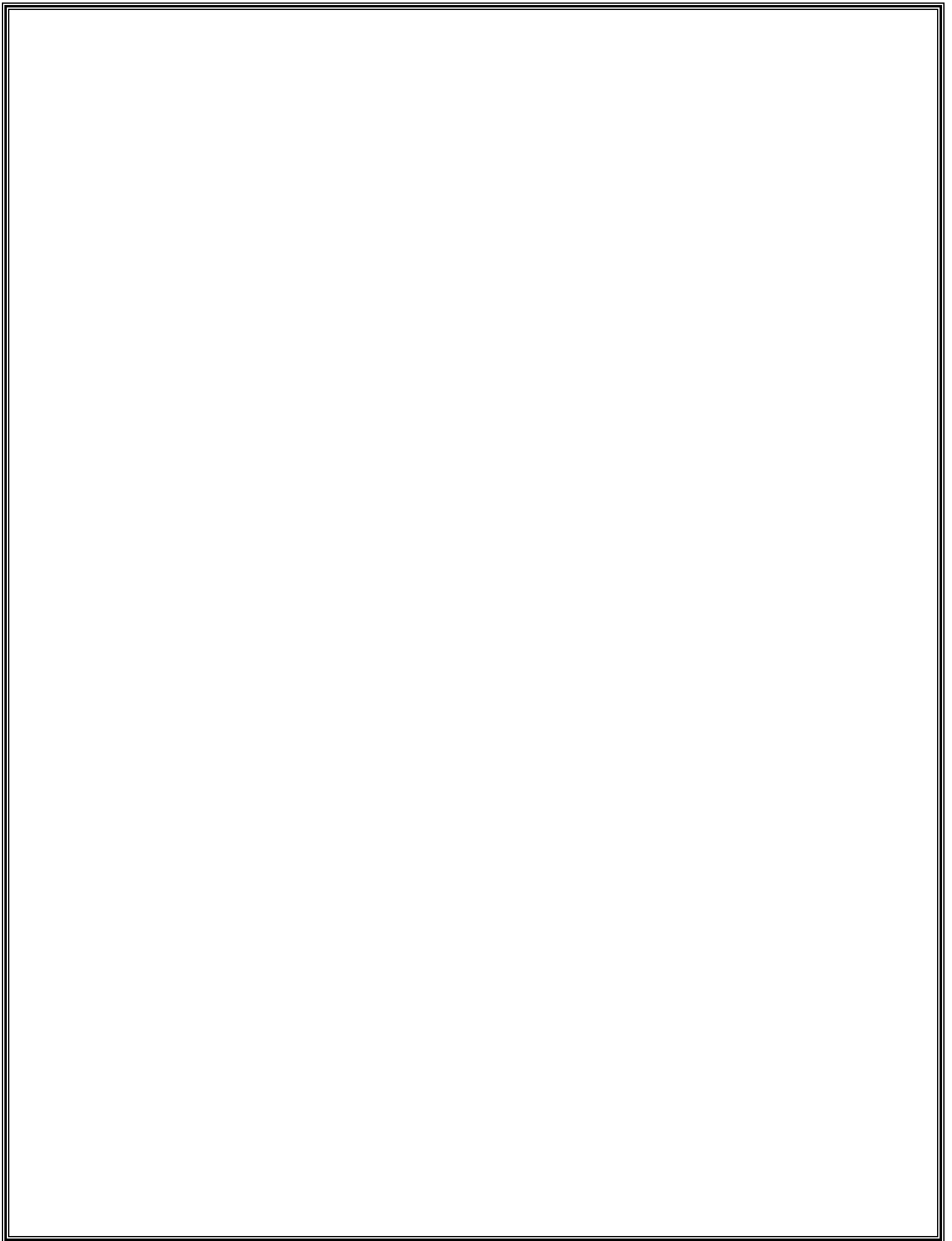
REPORT ON
SPRING 2008 INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



Tennessee Board of Regents

Office of Academic Affairs

March 2008



Washington Center Internships Promote Student Success

Introduction

Through institutional scholarships and \$150,000 in state monies, twenty-five Tennessee Board of Regents university undergraduates are participating in The Washington Center Internships and Academic Seminars Program during the spring 2008 semester. The Washington Center is an independent, nonprofit organization serving hundreds of colleges and universities by providing select students challenging opportunities to work and learn in Washington, D.C. The Washington Center provides an integrated academic and work experience that prepares college students and professionals for lives of achievement and civic engagement, while receiving credit at their home institutions. The center has played a crucial role in preparing young people for leadership and promoting civic participation by connecting motivated students with companies, organizations, congressional offices, and federal agencies that exemplify the values of leadership and community service.

The student response has been enormous; more students expressed interest than the number of available scholarship slots. We know that the internships will be rewarding to our students. A video about The Washington Center internships can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.twc.edu/videos.shtml>.

Paula Myrick Short

Paula Myrick Short, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
paula.short@tbr.edu



www.tbr.edu

Tennessee Board of Regents
1415 Murfreesboro Road, Suite 350
Nashville, TN 37217
voice: (615) 366-4411
fax: (615) 366-3903

**Tennessee Board of Regents
Washington Center Interns – Spring 2008**

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Austin Peay State University | Diana Darks |
| Austin Peay State University | Frankie DeJesus |
| Austin Peay State University | Anthony Haddock |
| Austin Peay State University | Jessica Lance |
| <hr/> | |
| East Tennessee State University | Bethany Brown |
| East Tennessee State University | Neal Mehta |
| East Tennessee State University | Shawn Ruefer |
| East Tennessee State University | Belinda Wilson |
| <hr/> | |
| Middle Tennessee State University | Joshua Fryer |
| Middle Tennessee State University | Lora Hortert |
| Middle Tennessee State University | Erica Jarrett |
| Middle Tennessee State University | Kaitlyn Jones |
| <hr/> | |
| Tennessee State University | Deyeasa Bond |
| Tennessee State University | LaPourche Owens |
| Tennessee State University | Karen Tankersley |
| <hr/> | |
| Tennessee Technological University | Daniel Hodge |
| Tennessee Technological University | Joseph Morgan |
| Tennessee Technological University | Ashley Thayer |
| Tennessee Technological University | Morgan Thomas |
| <hr/> | |
| The University of Memphis | Steven Gause |
| The University of Memphis | Jessica Gibbons |
| The University of Memphis | Cary Littlejohn |
| The University of Memphis | Kofi Martin |
| The University of Memphis | Barry Matthews |
| The University of Memphis | James Shields |



The Washington Center Internship Program

About the Washington Center

Currently in its 32nd year of operation, The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars is an educational non-profit organization serving hundreds of colleges and universities by providing students with valuable opportunities to work, learn, and live in Washington, D.C. The Washington Center is the largest such program available with over 36,000 alumni, many of whom are now leaders in numerous professions and nations all over the world.



The Washington Center Program works in a manner similar to many study abroad programs in that students remain enrolled at their home institutions while living in Washington, D.C. Typically, students are awarded 12-16 credits by their home institutions for fall and spring semester internships, and 6-9 credits for the summer semester

programs. The Washington Center is not an institution of higher education, and thus does not award interns with credit hours. Rather, credit is awarded at the discretion of an intern's home institution.

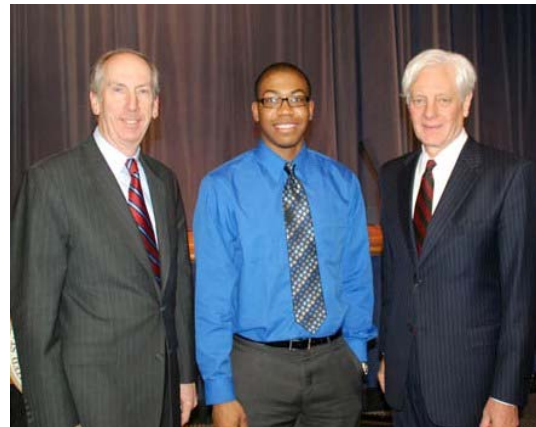
The Washington Center's purpose is to offer cost-effective, quality educational services designed to complement the experiential programs of higher education institutions. The goal of The Washington Center is to make the cost of attending the program comparable to a semester of study at a higher education

institution. More than 1,000 colleges and universities, large and small, public and private, have taken advantage of these services. Through The Washington Center, those colleges and universities have been able to expand the curricular options available to their students. Additional information can be found at [The Washington Center's website](#).

The Internship Experience

Students in The Washington Center Internship Program gain essential experience while earning credit hours at their home institutions. There are three basic components to every Washington Center intern's experience. First, students are assigned to one of several thematically organized programs according to their interests, and given an internship in that area. Programs include, but are not limited to, advocacy and service, public policy, science, congressional leadership, and international affairs.

The second component of an intern's experience is an academic course taught by an experienced faculty member. Classes meet once a week and are taught in a seminar style.



Mike Smith, president of The Washington Center (left); James Shields, University of Memphis (middle); Kevin Klose, National Public Radio (right)



Faculty members are encouraged to use the wide array of resources that Washington, D.C. provides, such as museums and libraries. Anywhere from thirty-five to fifty courses may be available for a given semester.

The final component, the Leadership Forum, is a structured set of activities that give interns insight into leadership styles and opportunities they have to contribute to their communities. Students hear and engage with distinguished speakers, including cabinet members, ambassadors, journalists, members of Congress, and others. They have opportunities to visit embassies and learn about international conflicts. Other programming helps students appreciate the many opportunities they have to give back in their own ways through service to their communities.

As part of their experience, interns are to complete a service learning project and a portfolio. All interns receive three recommended grades that are sent to their home institutions. The intern's assigned agency and program advisor complete an evaluation, which is then sent to the institution, for assignment of final grade.

TBR Participation

Benefits of Participating

Internships are critical stepping stones to further learning and professional success. A student that interns is able to apply what he or she has learned in class to a real life situation, as well as test interests, develop new talents, and learn of career paths. The experience gained from an internship gives a student an important edge in the competition for future

employment or admission to graduate schools. Internships are cited by many companies as the most important measure of a student's success in undergraduate studies. Many new full-time workers in the United States were recruited directly from their internships at companies.



Washington, D.C. is the ideal location for an internship because it offers vast amounts of intellectual and cultural diversity, as well as an unmatched number of internship opportunities. The Washington Center's more than thirty years of experience and reputation for program quality makes it the preeminent internship program in the nation's capital. There are many reasons why The Washington Center Program is the right choice:

- Contact with over 4,000 potential placement sites
- Provision of a strong peer group (an average GPA of over 3.3)
- An extensive internship tailored to the interests of the intern
- A wide selection of courses for study.
- Secure, professional style housing
- Regularly scheduled social and cultural activities
- A full-time service staff available to interns at anytime.



Support and Selection of Interns

Support of the Board of Regents for internships at The Washington Center began with \$150,000 in state funding for student scholarships. Because of the high degree of student interest for internships, the System Office of Academic Affairs and the Chief Academic Officers at each of the universities decided to provide as many scholarships as possible. The state monies would provide scholarships for twenty-four students, four from each campus. Since these monies support approximately half of The Washington Center costs, each of the universities agreed to provide the remaining costs through institutional scholarships, financial aid, and tuition conveyance. As expected, more students applied for internships than scholarships were available. The University of Memphis was able to provide additional monies to support a total of six students.

Each university appointed a liaison to coordinate the recruitment and application process for students. The Washington Center also sent representatives to each campus to help answer student questions about the internships. The number of qualified applicants for internships was extraordinary with students representing various majors in the humanities, sciences, fine arts, and

engineering. Twenty-five undergraduate students were selected for internships during spring 2008, and one student was selected for the summer.



Kofi Martin from the University of Memphis dancing with a few classmates after Ballet Technique at the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop

Board of Regents Interns

Spring 2008 Interns and Placements

Internships provide students with the ability to test interests, practice skills from the classroom, and learn about career paths, while gaining valuable job experience. The spring 2008 class of interns from Tennessee Board of Regents universities had a wide range of interests, and the Washington Center was able to place each student accordingly.



Tennessee Board of Regents interns pictured with Mike Smith, president of The Washington Center (5th from left) and guest speaker Kevin Klose, president of National Public Radio (6th from left).



Austin Peay State University

Diana Darks
Frankie DeJesus
Anthony Haddock
Jessica Lance

Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin)
Representative Leonard Boswell (D-Iowa)
US Department of the Treasury
Freedom's Watch

East Tennessee State University

Bethany Brown
Neal Mehta
Shawn Ruefer
Belinda Wilson

Tribune Broadcasting
Center for Health Transformation
National Park Service
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Middle Tennessee State University

Joshua Fryer
Lora Hortert
Erica Jarrett
Kaitlyn Jones

Center for American Progress
Montgomery County Public Defender's Service
Democratic National Committee
Institute of International Education

Tennessee State University

Deyeasa Bond
LaPourche Owens
Karen Tankersley

Constituency for Africa
Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee
Embassy of Mexico, Trade and NAFTA Office

Tennessee Technological University

Daniel Hodge
Joseph Morgan
Ashley Thayer
Morgan Thomas

Integrated Infrastructure Analytics, Inc.
US Department of Justice, INTERPOL
Representative Phil Gingrey (R-GA)
Peace Corps

The University of Memphis

Steven Gause
Jessica Gibbons
Cary Littlejohn
Kofi Martin
Barry Matthews
James Shields

RedEye Professional Post
Institute for Gulf Affairs
Baldwin, Molina & Escoto
National Endowment for the Arts
Small Business Administration
Montgomery County Public Defender's Service



Intern Experiences

The Washington Center offers students more than an internship. It also offers students a chance to live and learn in one of the most vibrant cities in the United States. The center places students into thematically organized programs based on their internship and interests. Within this program, students select a seminar course, which provides interns with further insight into their interest area while exposing students to the culture of Washington, D.C.

What TBR students say about the internship experience...

- “I am working at Tribune Broadcasting which reports political news and is sent out to local stations across the nation. I am learning how everything works and how everything in the nation’s capitol operates. This is hands on experience, not just listening to other people. I am practically living my dream!” ~Bethany Brown, East Tennessee State University
- “Before coming here, I really did not know what I wanted to do, but this experience has made me aware of many careers I would love to work towards. I have been able to talk with people from many organizations, which has helped me to focus my area of interest.” ~Kaitlyn Jones, Middle Tennessee State University
- “At my job, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), I have been assisting my supervisor with research on Congressional elections. I have helped submit and put together several political ads and even contributed to building a new website for the company.” ~LaPourche Owens, Tennessee State University

What TBR students say about living and learning in Washington...

- “Being able to be in the middle of the political frenzy this season is interesting and gives me a chance to look a little deeper into the real world of politics and the functioning of the nation’s capital.” ~Tyler Hodge, Tennessee Tech University
- “The [Washington Center] class is designed to help students get a feel of what to expect when they go to law school. I think this class is the most interesting class that I’ve ever taken. Everything I learn in class I can incorporate into work, which motivates me that much more to learn as much as I can.” ~James Shields, University of Memphis

TBR students on The Washington Center experience...

- “I chose the center because the program has connections with thousands of agencies and they make an effort to place you with the agency that best suits your goals.” ~ Jessica Lance, Austin Peay State University
- “I chose to intern in Washington, D.C. because I believe there will be no other time in my life to come and work while enjoying the atmosphere of our great capital.” ~Joseph Cade Morgan, Tennessee Tech University
- “In exchange for some hard work, I get to live and experience all that is Washington, D.C. for an entire semester, all because of my college back home. Who wouldn’t jump at that possibility?” ~Cary Littlejohn, University of Memphis

Visit [The Washington Center website](#) for additional information on The Washington Center.

