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Tonya Public Affairs
Executive Summary

Executive Office of the Mayor: Washington, D.C.

This summer the Executive Office of Mayor Adrian Fenty accepted me for an internship position within Mayor Fenty's infamous bullpen, where most of the Mayor's integral policy changes are brainstormed and drafted in their nascent stages. This wonderful opportunity would not have been possible without the generous funding provided by my ten-week Tonya Public Affairs Scholarship. This quite revealing internship furnished me with completely new insight in terms of how a local municipality functioned. As compared to an internship dealing with the national political debates raging on Capitol Hill, this internship advanced my knowledge of local governing in a new and intriguing microcosm of politics.

In terms of day-to-day activities, my projects were of many different natures. Since I originally worked with the Scheduling Office, only a few desks away from the Mayor, my duties included sorting and logging the Mayor's event invitations, calling to follow up regarding the Mayor, or a surrogate's, attendance status, and brief his lead scheduler on both that days scheduled events and all outstanding requests.

Another project that demanded a large portion of my time was the Summer Youth Employment Program, which employs over 20,000 D.C. youth for a period of eight weeks every summer. I was the Lead Internship Coordinator between the Executive Office and over nine of the Federal Sites (out of 20) where we placed over 500 D.C. youth. Our youth were placed in such agencies as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Treasury, and the National Park Service, to name a few. In this role I had complete freedom to attend to my duties. My main tasks were to ensure that these Federal Sites were closely monitored, that both the youth and their supervisors maintained a proper working relationship, organize inspections of sites to determine if the site was fit for the youth to work there, and to provide the Mayor's Chief of Staff and her Office with updates as to the condition of each particular site under my evaluation. As a member of the Class of 2009, this internship aided in attuning the work ethic that I pride myself on to the realities of the fast paced and demanding environment that we know as politics, and I am thrilled about furthering my Political Education.