

Quersten McDonald

02 August 2010

Tonya Public Affairs Executive Summary

### The Conversation, The Letter, The Meeting

As I drove around the corner and saw glimpses of the sign that read “Office of U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln,” I sighed in anticipation of participating in an internship that would not only change my perception of governmental response and action but would thoroughly change me as a person. As a small excerpt from thoughts written on napkins, in notebooks, and anything else that I could find during a seemingly hectic day in Senator Lincoln’s Little Rock office, this was my first expression of my account as an intern.

The internship in the Office of U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln was a remarkable experience that allowed me to learn and advocate health, education, and economic issues. For five weeks I handled constituent issues concerning social security with breaks to meet with the former Governor of Arkansas David Pryor, Congressman Vic Snyder, the Arkansas Department of Health Services, the directors of the Mexican Consulate in Little Rock, Senator Lincoln’s Washington D.C staff, and social security representatives all over the great state of Arkansas. As outlined, the specific duties of the internship were: 1.)to explore several pieces of legislation, 2.)to gain experience in constituent response and action, 3.)to learn to work closely with casework staff, and 4.)to enhance knowledge of the various functions of a state congressional office.

Throughout the summer, the most memorable moments were *the conversation, the letter, and the meeting*. The conversation with a constituent suffering from a strained economy, the opportunity to write a letter concerning the environmental annihilation in the Gulf, and the meeting with former Governor David Pryor were moments that contributed to my growth as a person. As an intern in the Office of U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln, I created substantial solutions to problems, improved my understanding of various concepts and legalities, and learned how to effectively serve the citizens of this country with accountability and respect.