Native American Political Leadership Program

The George Washington University’s Semester in Washington Politics
2011 AT&T Native American Political Leadership Program (NAPLP)

FULL SCHOLARSHIPS

In January 2011, a select group of Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students will receive individual scholarships to cover tuition, fees, housing, books, and other expenses. As a participant in NAPLP you will have the opportunity to:

- Spend a semester in the nation’s capital
- Participate in hands-on internships
- Interact with political leaders and policymakers
- Receive academic credit for classroom study
- Study important community issues

You will learn key elements of political campaigns and governance such as:

- Message development
- Voter targeting
- Media production
- Direct mail
- Fundraising
- Lobbying
- Grassroots advocacy

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested students who are members of a Native community or possess proof of ancestry may apply online or download our application and mail to: NAPLP, The George Washington University, 1922 F Street, NW, Suite 401, Washington, DC 20052.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- NAPLP admissions application – available online at www.naplp.gwu.edu
- One letter of recommendation
- Transcripts of all college academic work (unofficial transcripts are acceptable)
- Current resume
- Indication of tribal affiliation or ancestry (Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian)

Learn more at:

www.naplp.gwu.edu

Application DEADLINE for Spring 2011 is November 1, 2010

202-994-3284 • naplp@gwu.edu
The Native American Political Leadership Program (NAPLP) at The George Washington University and the office of U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) have developed a joint Senate internship program. Senator Reid’s commitment to expanding educational opportunities and diversifying Senate staff is longstanding. His office reached out to NAPLP in the fall of 2007 to encourage young Native American leaders to consider careers in government, specifically on Capitol Hill.

"I am so pleased with the success of the Native American Political Leadership Program. The participants of this program are some of our most promising young leaders who will combine the lessons they learn through this internship with their rich life experiences to help improve our country. We look forward to welcoming more Native leaders to Senate internships in the future."

-U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV)

Students who have participated in this joint program and their internship placements:

**Spring 2008**
- Hunter Brown, Kenaitze Indian Tribe, U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)
- Charlayne Holliday, Native Hawaiian, U.S. Senator Barack Obama (D-IL)
- Jared James, Tingit and Haida Indian Tribes, U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ)
- Chris Kolerok, Calista Alaska Native, U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO)
- Miguel Medrano, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
- Porsche Skenandore-Wheelock, Oneida Tribe, U.S. Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI)
- Jarrid Smith, Seminole Tribe, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL)
- Curtis Woods, Lumbee Tribe, U.S. Senator Joseph I. Lieberman (ID-CT)
- Kathleen Wright-Bryan, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, U.S. Senator Harry Reid (D-NV)

**Spring 2009**
- Marcus Grignon, Menominee, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
- Larissa Meinecke, Native Hawaiian, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
- Luka Mossman, Native Hawaiian, U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

**Spring 2010**
- Dawn Begay, Navajo Nation, U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D-NM)
- Sabrina Benally, Navajo Nation, U.S. Senator Joseph I. Lieberman (ID-CT)
- Maurissa Bigjohn, Menominee, U.S. Senator Jon Tester (D-MT)
- Jennifer Brown, Choctaw Tribe, U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)
- Devin Forrest, Native Hawaiian, U.S. Senator Edward E. Kaufman (D-DE)
- Krislyn Mossman, Native Hawaiian, U.S. Senator Christopher J. Dodd (D-CT)
- Sasha Pietsch-Rivers, Winnebago Tribe, U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D-NM)

Senator Reid’s office has placed future Native leaders at internships in various offices and committees on Capitol Hill. As proof of the Senator’s visionary leadership, many have begun the process of getting back in those offices full-time upon graduation, including one student who was hired to join Senator Reid’s staff. The Native American Political Leadership Program is grateful for the support Senator Reid has shown to our program and the entire Native community. NAPLP looks forward to placing more students in the halls of Congress as this cooperative venture continues.
The Native American Political Leadership Program (NAPLP) is an academic scholarship program designed specifically for Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Funded by the AT&T Foundation and run concurrently with The George Washington University's Semester in Washington Politics program, NAPLP offers Native American college students from across the country the opportunity to study in Washington, DC, in order to learn how public policy decisions are made, how power is wielded, how government is run, and how democratic politics functions in a free society. The program involves rigorous coursework in applied politics, hands-on professional internships, development of relationships with mentors, and interaction with Washington's political and policy decision-makers and leaders in the Native American political community.

The objective of the program is to create a corps of trained, sophisticated, young Native American leaders with the skills, outlook, and contacts necessary to generate and sustain change both in Washington and in their local communities. NAPLP alumni have returned to their communities knowing what it takes to win elections, form coalitions, pass legislation, and influence public opinion. They leave the program better informed about how politics works and how to influence political processes. It is our belief that these future leaders will become highly successful in implementing the government-to-government consultation that is an integral part of the developing relationship between their power structures and the U.S. federal and state governments.

Students accepted to participate receive scholarships that cover tuition and fees for the six credits of core coursework, on-campus housing, the cost of books, transportation to and from Washington, DC, and a stipend for living expenses.

Thus far, sixty students have completed the program. They have come from nineteen states and represent more than thirty-five Native American and Alaska Native tribes and communities as well as Native Hawaiians.
After only four years, our alumni are working in advocacy groups such as the National Congress of American Indians and the National Indian Health Board, as staffers on Capitol Hill, and in law firms specializing in Native American issues. Several have gone on to graduate schools and law schools; two are studying at Harvard and another was just accepted to Yale. One ran for political office in Alaska.

Coursework
The program is built around two core courses for which students earn academic credit:

**Electoral and Legislative Processes** explores how political decisions are made in the electoral and legislative arenas and how advocates can successfully influence those decisions as they seek to elect people to public office, move public opinion, or implement a legislative agenda.

**Practicum in Political Management** offers a “current events” focus in which students work with a practicum leader drawn from Washington’s professional community as they develop strategic plans to accomplish a specific goal. This may take the form of electing a U.S. Senator or seeking Congressional passage of legislation.

Networking Events
A significant component of the program is a series of professional networking events, held throughout the semester. The goal of these events is to literally introduce our students to the decision-makers and opinion leaders who make Washington work. Past events include:

- Briefing and Private Tour, National Museum of the American Indian, Cultural Resources Center
- Briefing and Lunch with Heather Dawn Thompson, Director of Government Affairs, National Congress of the American Indian
- Briefing by U.S. Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK), Chair, Congressional Native American Caucus
- Introductory Breakfast with AT&T Sponsors and GW President Steven Knapp
- Meeting with Tom Brooks, Vice President, AT&T
- Meeting with U.S. Senator Mark Begich (D-AK)
- Meeting with U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
- Meeting with U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI)
- Meeting with U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI)
- Photo Ops with Students’ Congressional Representatives
- Capitol Hill Roundtable Breakfast Discussion with Legislative Assistants Dealing with Native American Issues
- Briefing and Tour, The White House
- Briefing on Paid Media by Matt Erickson, Vice President, LHIK Media
- Briefing by Tom McMahon, Executive Director, Democratic National Committee
- Briefing by Chuck Todd, NBC News, White House Correspondent and Political Director
- Briefing by Mike Adams, General Counsel, Republican Governors Association
- Briefing by U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- 2008 Presidential Prognostication Panel Discussion featuring Semester in Washington Politics Alumni
- Briefing on Congressional Lobbying by Christine Lisi, The Glover Park Group
- Briefing by Barry Jackson, Special Assistant to President Bush
- Briefing by U.S. Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Intelligence
- Briefing by Bill Black, Partner, Fleishman-Hillard
- Briefing by Michael Toner, Former Chairman, Federal Election Commission
- Briefing and Tour, The Pentagon
- Briefing by Brad Luna, Director of Communications, Human Rights Campaign
- Semester in Washington Politics Alumni Reception
- Washington Nationals Baseball Game
- Democratic National Committee Winter Meeting
- Briefing by U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia
- Photo Ops with U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
- Photo Ops with Mayor Adrian Fenty (Washington, DC)
- Panel Discussion on Politics and the New Media
- Family Research Council
In addition, we have made several other opportunities available to students who have the time and interest, including participating in the Annual Legislative Conference of the National Indian Education Association, the Native American Society Inaugural Ball, the Annual Meeting of the National Congress of the American Indian, and the Annual State of Indian Nations Address.

**Mentorships**

We offer each incoming student a mentor, here in Washington, who is not part of the teaching or administrative arms of the program. Drawn primarily from Native American professional circles (including the Native American Bar Association) and alumni of either Semester in Washington Politics or the Graduate School of Political Management, these mentors serve as advisors and networking anchors for our students.
Internships
Students' professional internships have included:

Ambassador Charles W. Blackwell, Chickasaw Nation
American Foreign Policy Council
Cherokee Nation Washington Office
Hillary Clinton for President
Meridian International Center
Middle East Institute
National Council of Urban Indian Health
National American Indian Housing Council
National Congress of American Indians
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement
TKC Technology Solutions, LLC
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources, Office of Indian Affairs
U.S. House Committee on Indian Affairs
U.S. Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX)
U.S. Senator Barack Obama (D-IL)
U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)
U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ)
U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO)
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
U.S. Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI)
U.S. Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL)
U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman (I-CT)
U.S. Senator Harry Reid (D-NV)
U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
U.S. Congressman Dan Boren (D-OK)

Charlayne Holliday, class of 2008, with then-U.S. Senator Barack Obama (D-IL).

Semester in Washington Politics
NAPLP is run in partnership with GW's Semester in Washington Politics program. Like NAPLP, SIWP provides educational experiences in political coursework, internships, and networking but to a broader audience. Together, NAPLP and SIWP reach out across the country to educate and empower our emerging political leaders.

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