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Intern Newsletter

HACU National Internship Program | Summer 2013



From the Desk of the Director

Due to sequestration, the prospects for our Summer 2013 session were not very promising. While our previous summer sessions boasted participation rates of almost 500 interns, this year we wondered if we would even reach 200 interns. The signs around us were discouraging: agencies were implementing mandatory furlough days and hiring remained at a stand-still. In addition, national programs and services were receiving steep funding cuts.

Thankfully, our partners rallied with us in their commitment to bringing diverse talent to federal government and moved mountains to bring HACU interns to their offices. They understood the immense value that HACU interns bring to their work projects and office environments: from specialized training in growing industries, to in-demand tech skills in website development, social media, and video communications. In addition, many contribute multicultural and multilingual backgrounds that help inform service delivery, community outreach, and policy decision-making across agencies.

At 217 strong, our summer cohort exceeded all expectations. It carries forward an important legacy of HACU interns that has continued for over two decades. I am proud to see how well our interns represent our mission, and am excited to see their future accomplishments.

Thanking you for another successful summer,

Maria Elena Vivas-House
HNIP Senior Executive Director





Upcoming Events and Important Deadlines



- July 29** - Federal Resume Workshop at PBGC
- August 8** - Summer 2013 Farewell Reception
- August 10** - Regular Session Interns Depart
- August 23** - Fall 2013 Session Begins
- August 24** - Quarter Session Interns Depart

Thank you to our federal and corporate partners:

- Aetna
- Consumer Product Safety Commission
 - Directorate for Engineering Sciences
- Deloitte
- Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
- Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
- Ford Motor Company Fund
- Library of Congress
 - Copyright Office
- National Archives and Records Administration
 - Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
 - George H. W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum
 - Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum
 - Information Security Oversight Office
 - John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
 - National Archives at Chicago
 - National Archives at Kansas City
 - National Archives at Philadelphia
 - Office of the Federal Register
 - Presidential Materials Division
 - Research and Testing Lab
 - Richard M. Nixon Presidential Library and Museum
 - Textual Records Processing Unit
- Naval Sea Systems Command
 - NAVSEA Warfare Center Carderock Division
- National Credit Union Administration
 - Office of the Chief Financial Officer
 - Office of Consumer Protection
 - Office of Human Resources
 - Office of the General Counsel
 - Office of Public and Congressional Affairs
 - Office of Small Credit Union Initiatives
- National Science Foundation
 - Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, & Transport Systems
 - Computer and Network Systems
 - Division of Acquisition and Cooperative Support
 - Division of Environmental Biology
 - NSF Academy
 - Office of Human Resources
 - Office of Integrated Activities
 - Office of International Science and Engineering
- Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation
- Public Broadcasting Service
- Sodexo
- U.S. Agency for International Development
 - Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
 - Agricultural Research Service
 - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
 - Economic Research Service
 - Food Safety and Inspection Service
 - Forest Service
 - Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Office of the General Counsel
 - Rural Development
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 - Clinical Center
 - National Heart Lung and Blood Institute
 - Office of Minority Health
 - Office of the Director
- U.S. Department of Commerce
 - Bureau of Industry and Security
 - U.S. Census Bureau
- U.S. Department of Defense
 - Defense Logistics Information Service - Michigan
- U.S. Department of the Interior
 - Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Department of Transportation
 - Federal Aviation Administration
- U.S. Department of the Treasury
 - Departmental Offices
 - Financial Management Service
 - Internal Revenue Service
 - Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
 - U.S. Mint
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Office of Public Health
 - VA Learning University
 - VA Central Office

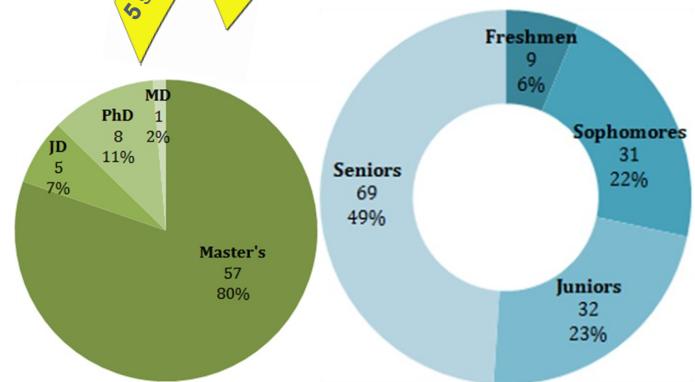


Snapshot of Our Summer Interns

This year's Summer 2013 cohort of HACU interns includes 212 federal interns and 28 corporate interns. Our federal interns alone represent 124 different postsecondary institutions in the U.S., of which 45 are Hispanic-serving institution (HSI) members of HACU. Our students hail from 32 different U.S. states and territories, and are placed in office locations all over the country. Here are some other fast facts on students!



student classification



Top 5 Campus Systems

Based on the total number of interns participating in Summer 2013, from all campuses within each system

- #5 Inter American University of Puerto Rico
 - #5 City University of New York
 - #4 Texas A&M
 - #3 University of Texas
 - #2 California State University
 - #1 University of Puerto Rico**



race & ethnicity

African American/Black	10%
Asian and Pacific Islander	3%
Caucasian	7%
Hispanic	78%
Declined to State	2%



Countless Great Opportunities

Felix Muñiz, history major at Bowling Green State University

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is tasked with safeguarding and preserving the records of the government to ensure people can discover and ultimately gain historical understanding of our national experience. For the past several weeks, I have enjoyed the privilege of serving as a summer intern for NARA in Kansas City, Missouri, one of 14 regional archives operating throughout the country. The opportunity to serve through the HACU National Internship Program has been very rewarding, bridging my academic experience in the classroom with direct federal work experience outside of it.

Thus far, I have gained valuable work experience assisting the Research Services staff in processing records from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This includes the physical arrangement of the records, performing holdings maintenance, and other preservation techniques as needed as well as responding to reference requests, screening records for privacy concerns, and identifying particularly interesting records in preparation for digitization.

Combing through the records of Walt Disney, Jesse James, Buffalo Bill, Spotted Tail, Crazy Horse and the Civil War, among many others, has formed just part of my experience; opportunities for professional development has been an added component. HACU field interns also enjoy networking and career enrichment opportunities. Throughout my experience, my supervisor has stressed the importance of interacting with other professionals and continuing a path of life-long learning. From trips to the Harry Truman Library and the Federal Records Center in Lee Summit to sitting privately with the Director of NARA at Kansas City to receive feedback on my resume and listening to her suggestions on navigating through the federal job search, this internship has truly been an unparalleled experience and a hopeful launching pad into

National Archives and Records Administration

Kansas City, Missouri



a successful career.

This experience has afforded me many opportunities to interact with NARA staff across the country and many other federal employees outside of the agency. The HNIP alumni network is massive, with members from practically every agency willing to serve as mentors and guides as interns transition into more permanent careers.

Perhaps one of the greatest opportunities afforded by HACU is that in addition to placing interns throughout the nation's capital, HACU also places interns in field sites throughout the country, from Kansas City and St. Petersburg to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Very few opportunities enable college students to pick and travel free of cost across the U.S. for semesters at a time, gaining valuable work experience and building a network of influential contacts along the way. As such, I recommend the HNIP program to any student interested in gaining federal work experience.



Felix at NARA in Kansas City.

Finding the path to my future

Sandra Cifuentes, human resources major at Saint Leo University

Federal Reserve Board

Washington, D.C.



My internship at the Federal Reserve Board (FRB) has been very informative. Through meetings with managers and supervisors throughout different divisions I've learned about talent acquisition, benefits, employee life, total rewards, compensation, metrics, organizational development and learning, and employee relations.

Recently I attended a meeting to discuss generational gaps in the workforce and compiled information to develop a presentation on how these differences could benefit the human resources and other divisions of the Federal Reserve Board.

I have been very blessed to have the opportunities to attend one-on-one meetings and trainings with Human Resources (HR) staff and managers from other divisions to better understand the field, and to get advice on how to determine what I want for my career. Being used to having a plan and then being exposed to all these different alternatives has been difficult because I love every aspect of HR. However, this experience is definitely helping me identify the sector I would like to specialize in. I'm considering being a generalist and looking into a job that lets me do a little bit of everything to begin with and gain more experience. This will help me open my eyes to what I feel the most comfortable in.

I am really enjoying my experience here at the FRB. I keep learning more and meeting new people that help me expand my knowledge about the workforce.



Sandra poses in front of the Federal Reserve Board.

Summer 2013 HACU Events at a glance!



Above: Interns at the Department of Homeland Security for a Cybersecurity Information Session.

Below: Department of State panelists discuss Foreign and Civil Service careers during the First Intern Workshop.



Congressman Raul Ruiz from California speaks at the Congressional Breakfast.



Californian Abigail Campos, intern at VA, introduced Congressman Ruiz at the Congressional Breakfast.

Intern Matthew Casper (far left) and former Ambassador Lino Gutierrez share their thoughts at the Department of State.

HACU Interns in the private sector



I think that the HNIP Program offers great opportunities for students who want to work in Washington, D.C. Living in Washington, D.C. alone has given me the opportunity to network with individuals who are in places where I aspire to be in the future. In a very short period I have had the opportunity to network with Congressional staff, VP's of companies, Members of Congress, corporate supporters and lobbyists.

Through the HNIP program I have had great professional development opportunities that I would have never thought I would have back home. As an "Educational Program Intern," I am working on the *Ford Driving Dreams Through Education* which is a collaboration between HACU, Ford Motor Company Fund and LULAC. In the office I had the opportunity to build the annual report for the program. The process of building the annual report consists of compiling qualitative data and transforming it into quantitative data. I also had the opportunity participate in the organization of the 84th LULAC National Convention. I will continue to build my reputation in the office and continue to network so I can have more opportunities that focus on Educational access and other issues that affect the Latino community.

- Jose Torres, political science and government major at California State University, Fullerton

The HACU National Internship Program is by far the best internship program I have ever come across. As a student I take pride in my education and I work very hard to maintain a high GPA, and HACU provides competitive internships that reflect the professionalism that students like me will look forward to upon the completion of a degree. As an intern at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, transitioning from the east coast (where I am originally from) to the mid-west was quite a change, but it has been a very enjoyable experience thus far. I have had the ability to not only network but to gain knowledge of so many different departments and functions of the bank. I work specifically within Treasury Services and my main duty is to assist with complex projects distributed in the department. The amount of prestige and intelligence found in the atmosphere at the Federal Reserve Bank is enticing and it has really given me a better understanding of where I would like to see myself in my profession. I could not have chosen a better place to intern and I am beyond grateful to have been selected to participate in such a wonderful internship program.

- Lianna Santiago, business administration major at New Jersey City University



When a HACU representative gave a presentation at my school, New Jersey City University, I knew that this would be a great way to get some experience in a corporate area job closely related to my field. I was extremely excited to be offered an internship position with the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) working in their technology center. However, I must admit that it was tough to accept a position and be far from home for the summer. I am grateful that HACU assisted with all the arrangements, making the process easier and smoother.

Working at PBS has been amazing and I have learned a great deal directly and indirectly related to my field in computer science. My supervisor and the entire team have been great! They explain things thoroughly and are very willing to help if I need them. I am building my professional network and making the most out of my time here. Not only will this be one of the most productive summers in my life, but this experience will last a lifetime and will definitely help me in my future.

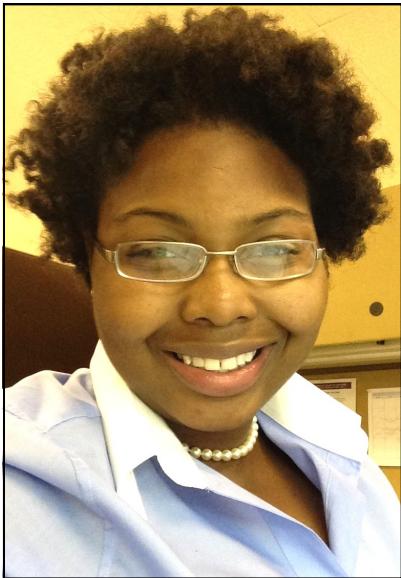
- Adis Mordan, computer science major at New Jersey City University

Creating a Positive Impact

Todchelle Young, Public Health Major at Columbia University

Department of Health and Human Services

Wallingford, Connecticut



It has been extremely busy working with the Regional Health Equity Council (RHEC) of the Office of Minority Health in Wallingford, Connecticut. Besides researching and evaluating numerous states' reports, data pages and survey results, I've had the opportunity to attend events such as the Connecticut Multicultural Health Partnership Conference and the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Hospital Associations' Supplier Diversity Program in partnership with the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives. This allowed me to network with dozens of professionals in the fields of Public Health and Medicine and broadened my horizon to people who are on the journey to address health disparities as I am.

I am in constant contact with state directors and community partners to share information that is helpful to the RHEC and their state organizations. I am also able to ask them for feedback on how the RHEC can help them achieve their organization's goal. Having face time with health professionals in top leadership positions has been an amazing experience, especially engaging in conversations about why they do what they do. One of the challenges of working in this office during the summer is managing the time. The loads of work that is necessary to assure that the council will continue to function is tremendous. Despite this fact, I am managing my time and find time for myself to enjoy being home for the summer with my family. I am very excited about this opportunity and love what I am doing. I pray that my work has a positive impact on what has already begun to end health disparities.

A Magical Opportunity in D.C.

Nidia Lopez Estrada, finance major at California State University, Long Beach Washington, D.C.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Never did I imagine how different my life would be this summer of 2013 thanks to HACU. My internship experience with Finance Services at the Department of Veterans Affairs has been extraordinary. This division administers veterans' benefits such as compensation, pension, fiduciary service and insurance.

One of my projects consists of preparing trend analysis reports and presenting them to the Chief Financial Officer at Office of Resource Management meetings. A step to develop these reports is creating charts to show the volume of Electronic Funds Transfers, debit card and check payments to veterans; data that is crucial and will be included in my final report. Another project that I have been assigned is to monitor the flow of information from the Veterans Affairs regional offices to the Central Office and preparing reports from the information received. As I've embarked on my projects, I've also had the chance to get some exposure to other areas that my department administers. For example, I recently learned about Program Oversight and assisted in a program risk evaluation project. I have had the opportunity to attend meetings with my supervisor and coworkers, providing me with a deeper understanding of how the VA works and how the division makes decisions on projects and procedures. In these meetings I get to meet executives and directors from all over the nation, including central and regional office directors.

My learning experience has been complemented with other enriching activities around Washington, D.C. My roommates and I have enjoyed ourselves visiting the Smithsonian museums on the National Mall, as well as attending the 2013 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Being here has been an amazing experience thus far and I look forward to experiencing more and getting the most out of my internship and of this magical city.



Nidia sits at the VA Oval Office

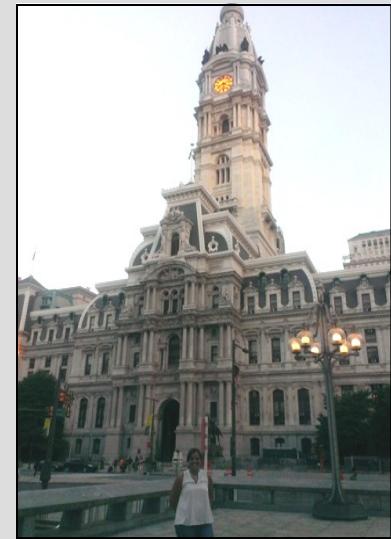
Across America: Lights, Camera, Action!



Yahaira Rodriguez, HNIP alumna, shows current intern Leonel Sandoval out around Austin, Texas.



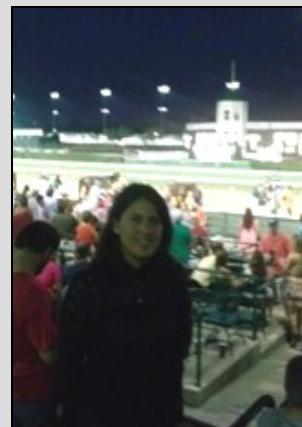
Maritza Ayala rides around in style in Milwaukee, Wis.



Laura Carrasco explores Philadelphia City Hall.



Adam Jarmel visits the Odyssey spacecraft in Southern California.



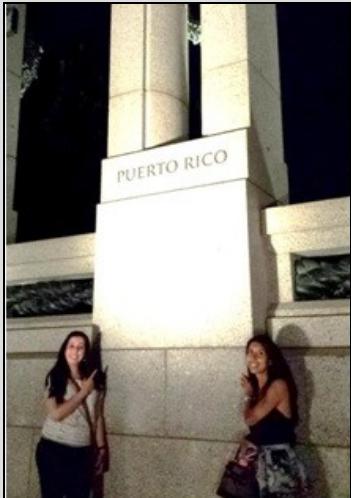
Left: Mariangely Lopez goes to a classic Kentucky horse-race in Louisville.
Below: Audilis Sanchez enjoys the beautiful California coastline in Los Angeles.



Stephanie Blondet, Albert Troche, Daira Gonzalez and friends visit the iconic St. Louis arch on 4th of July.



Interns with Fabiana Perera, Chair of the HACU Alumni Association.



Michael Carlock explores his VA office location in Madison, Wis.



Above: These lucky interns show off their raffle prizes at the HACU Alumni Association & CHCI Rooftop Welcome Reception.
Left: Angelica Rivera enjoys the views in downtown Portland, Ore.



Field interns enjoy a tour of the Library of Congress during Orientation Weekend in Washington, D.C.



Interns celebrate a Puerto Rican tradition, Noche de San Juan, at Cuba Libre restaurant in Washington, D.C.

Managing Ecosystems in California

Erik Martinez, environmental science at University of Texas , Pan-American

Department of Agriculture

Vallejo, California



Erik takes part of the uniformed team assisting at the "Healthy Parks and People" event.

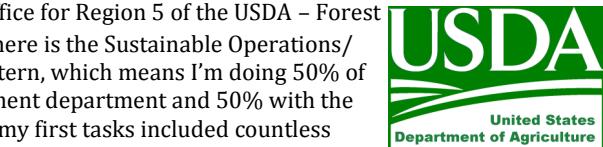
My internship is with the regional office for Region 5 of the USDA – Forest Service in Vallejo, California. My title here is the Sustainable Operations/ Climate Change and Fire Education Intern, which means I'm doing 50% of my time with the Ecosystem Management department and 50% with the Fire and Aviation department. One of my first tasks included countless reading on how to integrate sustainability in everyday office activities so that the regional office can meet the standards on the Climate Change Performance Scorecard Element 10. The purpose of this scorecard is to allow the office and the Region 5 National Forests to keep track of the efforts being made to reduce their carbon footprint. In regards to the fire education side, I have been able to help develop an on-line fire education course for adults in agencies that aren't located nearby. This will give them access to training while keeping the operations sustainable.

I recently attended several meetings including one at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office in San Francisco about a solar photovoltaic system to be implemented at our facility. It was interesting to learn how different agencies work together to get the project moving forward. I was also invited to a Wilderness Hobnob where I had the opportunity to meet with

other wilderness groups and interact with them in a more social environment. I met with Deb Whitman (Director of Ecosystem Management), Diana Craig (Deputy Director of Ecosystem Management), and Barnie Gyant (Deputy Regional Forester) to learn more about the Forest Service and how they got to where they are at. It definitely gave me something to look forward to! I've also been able to assist our Green Team and got to see my previous internship agency (the Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center) from a different perspective. It was exciting to see how the work from my previous office ties into my new office.

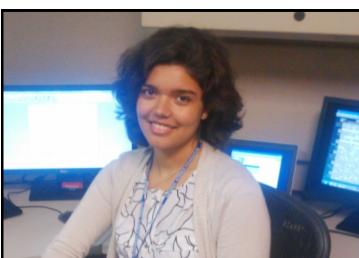
Life outside of work has also been fun and interesting! I meet different people every weekend. I recently went hiking at Muir Woods and San Francisco where I got to spend time with very nice people from other countries. Additionally, one of my co-workers invited me to an Oakland A's game. Not much of a sports fan, but I must admit that my first professional baseball game experience was a good one.

Time has flown by! The experience has been great thus far. Everyone is very friendly and helpful, making the Regional Office a great environment to work in!



Mentorship: A Key to Success

Constanza Figuerola, computer science major at University of Pennsylvania



Constanza poses at her work station.

Thus far this has been an incredible learning experience. Thanks to the constant support from my mentor, Paul Morris, I am able to apply my knowledge in a way that helps the work of the National Science Foundation (NSF). One of my first projects included the use of multi-dimensional scaling to condense a three-dimensional matrix of More Like This (MLT) algorithm mappings into a two-dimensional graph. This color coded graph (see below) shows how 500 NSF proposals from a sample relate to each other. The results were amazing. You could clearly see certain directorates like CSE and BIO branching out, while being very distinct. These results affirmed the effectiveness of the MLT tool that the NSF search engine is using and showed the connections among different proposals.

I also had the opportunity to install a virtual machine called Lubuntu onto an NSF laptop, where I set up the software Hadoop and Mahout. Hadoop is a tool that allows the virtual machine to break

National Science Foundation

Washington, D.C.

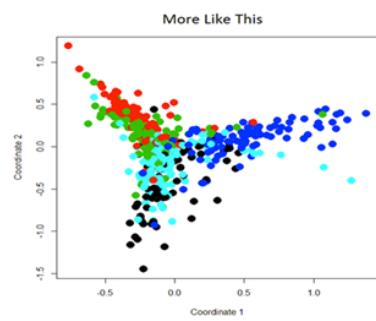


down tasks into smaller tasks and for many computer nodes to be connected and run a big job that a single computer might not have the capability of running. Mahout is a text mining tool that allows clustering of your data. I used it to cluster the 500 sample proposals into five clusters. The results were more obvious for certain directorates than for others. The BIO and CSE departments had pretty well defined clusters, while it was not so straightforward for others.

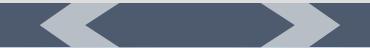
I was also able to meet Alfredo Higuera, a past intern at NSF that worked with my mentor and built the frameworks that I'm working with. It was nice to see how these opportunities helped him choose a career path and get a job.

CSE
ENG
BIO

GEO
MPS



Hands on the job...



"Recently, I had the opportunity to attend a meeting at the Department of Transportation with the Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) Advisory Council. This meeting was a key event for my office in its effort to implement the CUI program across all federal agencies. The CUI Advisory Council is composed of representatives of 28 federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, Department of Commerce, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of State." - Roberto Rodriguez, intern at the National Archives and Records Administration



Flor Calderon heads out into the field to track the bear population of Girdwood, Ala. for the U.S. Department of Agriculture — Forest Service.



"As an intern at the Office of Minority Health, I have been engaging in a communications plan for Affordable Care Outreach for people ages 18-35. It is really important to find creative ways to reach this particular audience especially since they are interested in learning more about health and healthcare; they just do not have the resources. Once the Affordable Care Act goes into effect January 1, 2014, we should be able to say we have reached and informed as many people as we could about the facts of this law." - Charlestina Vann, intern at the Department of Health and Human Services



Jewel Graw goes on a field assignment for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Logan, Utah.



Daira Gonzalez spearheads a business plan to help the VA Medical Center of St. Louis, Mo. better serve the needs of female veterans.

"Interning for the Department of Treasury at the investigations division of the Office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP), has given me the opportunity to learn a great deal about financial fraud and the manner in which the agency pursues investigations against individuals or banks and other institutions accused of wasting, stealing or abusing funds from the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP)." – Alexandra Barrica, intern at the Department of Treasury



Roberto Rodriguez and his supervisor at the National Archives and Records Administration.



Catherine Lucero at a cement engineering lab of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation in Denver, Colo.



“My recent project involved correlating data gathered during a simulated helicopter landing where I was required to come up with algorithms that will predict when it is safe to land an aircraft. I’m ecstatic about it since working with computer and numerical algorithms are my absolute favorite fields of study.” – Luis Negrete, intern at Naval Sea Systems Command

“One of my projects consists of processing data to explore opportunities to apply the Water Supply Stress Index (WaSSI) model for evaluation fire danger. I’ve worked with JMP software and Microsoft Access to assess 3.8 million records from different weather stations around the U.S. and evaluate the feasibility of using WaSSI with regards to fire risk. I’m very grateful to have the opportunity to learn how to work with these programs as this will be very helpful in my future.” – Carolina Osuna, intern at the Department of Agriculture



Suzette Martinez, intern at U.S. Mint, and the United States Treasurer, Rosa Gumataotao Rios.



H A C U

NATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
HISPANIC
ASSOCIATION
OF COLLEGES &
UNIVERSITIES

Summer 2013 HACU National Internship Program.

*Letter from your DC Summer 2013 Intern Board Member: Heidy Ortiz-Payan,
marketing major at University of California, Riverside*



Hello fellow interns,

I hope you all have been having a wonderful time this summer gaining valuable work experience that many would love to be acquiring right now. I also hope you have taken the opportunity to explore Washington D.C.'s rich culture; from its plethora of museums to its art shows and amazing cuisine. I highly stress that you all take advantage of all the opportunities that come knocking on your door this summer. You never know which one might change your life forever in the best way possible. As a HACU intern for the third consecutive summer, I have taken it upon myself to learn as much as I can from all three internships I've had. As a recent graduate from the University of California, Riverside, I hope to take what I have learned and demonstrate to everyone who always told me I couldn't or wouldn't just how capable I am of succeeding in life. And this doesn't apply just to me, we all as young individuals need to show the world that the minority can and will strive for the best and make something out of ourselves, making our parents proud of having raised such strong-willed and independent individuals. With that being said, I hope you all keep enjoying your time here in D.C. As our internships come to an end and we head back home, make sure to spread the word about HACU and the amazing opportunities it can offer. I am sure you are extremely grateful for that one person who told you about this program. Now you can be that someone to help a fellow classmate, sibling or friend get their foot in the door.

Best wishes on your future endeavors,

Heidy Ortiz-Payan

*Message from your Field Summer 2013 Intern Board Member: Oscar Herrera,
general studies major at Texas A&M University, College Station*

Hello Summer 2013 Interns,

Who could've thought that sacrificing your summer, moving away from family and friends and working could be so much fun? I really hope this experience has been as amazing for everyone as it has for me.

I want to thank you all for allowing me to serve as your first HAA Field Intern Board Member! It has been a pleasure getting to work with so many ambitious people from all over the United States.

Before the HACU National Internship Program offered me this amazing opportunity, I was flipping burgers, working late night shifts, leaving work exhausted and earning minimum wage. If any of you know what this feels like, you know it's not fun. HACU has been such a huge blessing in my life, and I hope you feel the same way. As our internship comes to an end, I want to encourage everyone to share your experience with your friends and family, take time to appreciate this opportunity and encourage others to participate in HNIP.

I highly encourage you all to stay in touch with each other and push each other to become better people! Together we need to represent HACU and seek to improve the future for our future generations! Always remember, "Be the Change you wish to see in this world."

Warm Regards,

Oscar Herrera

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