

2017

{WIN•tern•ships!}

2nd PLACE

BRYANT GLOVER

Strengthening My Passions

As an African American male, I can attest to many of the challenges and disadvantages people of color experience in the United States. These challenges range from social implications to many historic, systemic, and institutional practices in our nation. My career goal is to work in an environment that progress to alleviate much of these issues through civil rights and social justice. Additionally, I study Business Administration and have a genuine interest in how businesses operate and maintain efficiency.

Last summer, I had the incredible opportunity to combine these two passions working an internship at the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) within the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington DC. MBDA is the only federal agency dedicated to the growth and support of minority-owned business enterprises through access to capital,



contracts, and global markets. This internship informed me of many of the vast disparities minority-owned businesses (MBEs) encounter to gain access to capital. For example, I discovered that MBEs are less likely to receive loans than non-MBEs. MBEs are also more likely to pay higher interest rates on a loan, and will even receive lower amounts of loans compared to non-MBEs. I researched methods how MBEs could combat these disparities, and receive equitable opportunities to fund its business.

I was also fortunate that my internship provided me the opportunity to explore unique buildings and locations in Washington DC. I remember many of my lunch breaks including visits to the Library of Congress and Capitol Hill. I also visited the Eisenhower Building, and even had the pleasure of seeing President Obama speak at an international investment conference!

Overall, this internship exposed me to the many career opportunities in our nation's capital that focus on civil rights and social justice. My experience in Washington DC would not be the same without it.