

{WIN•tern•ships!}

*First Place*

## Motivation through Legislation

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One month ago, I completed the most influential learning experience as a participant of the UCDC Academic Internship Program. I was granted a rare opportunity to intern at the office of United States Senator Barbara Boxer in Washington D.C. This internship experience taught me how to utilize politics to instigate change and impact the future.

Coming from an economic educational background, I sincerely lacked an education and interest in politics. In fact, one year ago, I did not even know who Senator Boxer was. The internship changed, challenged, and cultivated my understanding of politics. Living and working in Washington submerged me into the world of politics; it created a personal drive within me to stay well-informed. I persistently researched news and how opposing views stood on issues.

Interning at the Senator's office has allowed me to see the effects legislation has on changing the country. It has shown me how one voice

can most effectively campaign for change, which has led me to an interest in a career advocating for public policies, most specifically public education. I believe every child has the right to an equal opportunity for education, and I want to fight for that right through legislation.

My internship has led to an unforgettable learning experience which helped to cultivate my drive to change the world. It has shown me the incredible amount of hard work required to introduce and pass a bill. I am inspired to one day take my experience and understandings to help mold the future, whether it be making Congress act more efficiently, or through the advocacy of legislation. I've always wanted to make a difference. Through my internship with Senator Boxer, my experience gave me the invaluable knowledge and capabilities to do so.