Spring 2021 presented us all with challenges as we continued to adapt to life during a pandemic. Throughout the semester, our team worked to support you in new and innovative ways!

We hosted the 18th Annual Student Conference 100% virtually, and leading up to the conference offered students with drop in hours to help prepare your presentations - something we will do again in Spring 2022! Check out the conference website!

Fortunately, CURCE was able to offer funding in Spring 2021. 30 financial awards were distributed to undergraduate students, and we had a record 92 students apply!

Our team also launched a pilot Summer Stipend Program, and awarded $2,000 to six undergraduates to engage in research during Summer 2021 with a UAlbany faculty member!

We cannot wait to see everyone back on campus for Fall 2021! Stay safe, stay health, and remember we are #OneUAlbany

~The CURCE Team
"When people tell their own story, it humanizes it."
- Judith Jackson

"Recognize the successes along the journey."
- Janine N’jie David

"Things that are quickly won can be quickly lost."
- Robb Nanus

"Advocacy requires relentlessness"
- Tom Kirdahy

"How can you build power to enact change?"
- Robert McCreanor

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE PANELISTS

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Subscription to the Stanford Social Innovation Review
Emergent Strategies by Adrienne Maree Brown

If you missed the panel and would like the review the recording email: ugr@albany.edu
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SPRING 2021 AWARD WINNERS!

**ABELE RESEARCH FUND**
Niara Nichols
Che’-Doni Platt

**GREENWALD RESEARCH FUND**
Saad Ahmad
Darnisha Langlais
Lois Pae
Che’-Doni Platt
Danielle Saint Hilaire

**MOYER RESEARCH FUND**
Danielle Saint Hilaire

**SITUATION PRIZE FOR RESEARCH – COMMUNITY, CAUSE AND ADVOCACY**
Habib Affinnih
Timothy Devo
Michelle Ferraino
Star Herrera
Michael Marciante
Jack August McEachern
Stephany Solis
Jose Velez
Christian Vitek

**PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**
Kristale Abdulla
Katie Almon
Brandy Aly
Jennifer Amoh
Justin Banfi
Deborah Brannan
Gabriel Brown
Veronica Burrage
Bariela Capollari
Ashley Coakley
Maxim Couillard
Kamana Devkota
Talia Hayes
Carolyn Jones
Anushka Luthra
Margaret O’Connor
James Oswald
Joseph Pignataro
Melissa Portalatin
Anya Ross
Danielle Saint Hilarie
Calista Tomasetti
Rebekah Wolanski
Lyla Zusman

**SORRELL CHESIN RESEARCH AWARD**
George Homendies
Danielle Saint Hilaire

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS**
Taylor Browning
Emmett Golden
Star Herrera
George Homendies
Rose Honold
Kyun Bee Kim
Darnisha Langlais
Emma Mingot
Brianna Nugent
Lois Pae
Joseph Pignataro

CONGRATS!
NYS Legislative Internships: Spring 2021

Nadine Al Annabi

Why would you recommend this internship to someone?

This internship has been an unforgettable and amazing learning experience. I encourage everyone to apply because it helps you build your network, make connections, and lifelong friendships.

I got to work for Senator Anna Kaplan and her amazing staff. Senator Kaplan's main mission is to serve the people and make a difference in the community and New York State. I also got the opportunity to learn so much about the legislature and bill drafting processes. This internship was by far the most exciting and interesting semester that I had within my past two and a half years at the University at Albany. My belief that internships teach you things that cannot be taught in a classroom was confirmed during my time here at the Senate. While I was always mainly interested in pursuing a career in law and become an international law human rights lawyer, this internship confirmed my passion for advocating for others and opened my eyes to different career paths that I can pursue to fulfill my lifelong goal.

I was able to witness firsthand the tireless and invaluable work that legislators put in to ensure the passage and enactment of laws that work in the best interest of the people. Watching sessions has become one of the things I look forward to the most on session days. Being able to work in the Senate amidst a global pandemic and watching the process of passing the fiscal budget was a very unique experience that I got to witness.

Do you have any tips or suggestions for someone applying in the future?

My first and most important tip is APPLY! Apply for this internship, even if you think you have a small chance of getting accepted into this very competitive program. You will be surprised by what you can accomplish when you take a leap of faith.

Secondly, I was a bit nervous about working for elected officials before my internship because I was aware of their importance and the power they hold. The senators and their staff are there to help and share their expertise with you. They are very approachable and friendly and are as excited as you are for the invaluable opportunity that you have.

Thirdly, do not be afraid of asking questions, especially about tasks you do not know how to do. You are not expected to know everything on the top of your head from the very beginning and making mistakes is a part of growing and becoming a well-rounded person.

Lastly, I love this quote that says, “Life begins at the end of your comfort zone.” Apply for that internship, make connections and step outside of your comfort zone because that is how you learn, evolve, and reach your fullest potential.

What skills did you gain that will continue to use in your everyday work?

This internship made me a better professional, colleague, student, and person. I learned how much of a positive impact we can have on people’s lives, even if we believe that we can do so little. I became an even more empathic and understanding person, and a more knowledgeable individual of the various issues facing people in New York State.

One of the highlights that I am most fond of during this internship was when my office informed me that we were able to assist over 400 constituents in Long Island in getting vaccinated. We had to work promptly to call and reach out to constituents to assist them with making COVID-19 vaccination appointments.

Some of the responsibilities that I had as a Senate Session Assistant, and now as a Legislative Assistant, are corresponding with constituents over the phone, email, or mail to resolve their issues and listen to their opinions on various bills. Communicating with constituents, different offices, and interest groups allowed me to build on my interpersonal and public speaking skills. In addition, I was responsible for drafting and writing resolution letters, bill memoranda of support, and meeting summaries which helped strengthen my writing, research, and time management skills.

Moreover, I became comfortable leading and taking meetings on behalf of the Senator with large groups of constituents and lobbyists, and then brief her using the copious notes that I took during the meeting.

Another skill that I acquired through this internship is navigating an ever-changing world and circumstances as we were among a very small number of interns who were given the chance to work in person in the Legislative Office Building and the Capitol during the pandemic.

Why would you recommend this internship to someone?
Working in the great halls of the New York State Capitol provided me time to reflect on the past monoliths that had walked the same path. During my time with State Senator Reichlin-Melnick's office, I have assisted in the introduction of bills by crafting sponsor's memorandum, circulation memorandum, tracking bill progress, submitting legislation for introduction, and handling all co-sponsorship requests. I take a great deal of pride in my work of vital legislation to aid struggling New Yorkers through the COVID-19 pandemic. As a Session Assistant, I have seen the aid government can provide to people, a true means of progress. Spending time connecting with constituents and understanding the drastic issues facing New Yorkers daily and finding a feasible solution is the ultimate reward.

The New York State Senate Session Assistantship will open opportunities, doors, and a solid career path if you put the work in. Upon completing the program, I was hired by State Senator Reichlin-Melnick as a Legislative Assistant and will continue my work serving the people of the 38th Senate District. This program will reveal whether a career path in government and politics is viable for someone who is exploring their professional aspirations.

Why would you recommend this internship to someone?

Working in the great halls of the New York State Capitol provided me time to reflect on the past monoliths that had walked the same path. During my time with State Senator Reichlin-Melnick's office, I have assisted in the introduction of bills by crafting sponsor's memorandum, circulation memorandum, tracking bill progress, submitting legislation for introduction, and handling all co-sponsorship requests. I take a great deal of pride in my work of vital legislation to aid struggling New Yorkers through the COVID-19 pandemic. As a Session Assistant, I have seen the aid government can provide to people, a true means of progress. Spending time connecting with constituents and understanding the drastic issues facing New Yorkers daily and finding a feasible solution is the ultimate reward.

Do you have any tips or suggestions for someone applying in the future?

As for advice for an interested applicant, the biggest tip I can provide is to be authentic throughout the application process. Relay policy perspectives, political standings, and feelings towards areas of interest. The more direct, honest, and authentic the application is the better chance an application has of resonating with the reviewers. An application is also a baseline for which office an applicant will fit best in, be authentic and it will lead to an office a student will shine in.
SUMMER TO DO:
PEOPLE POWERED RESEARCH

Ways to engage in research through online, open sourced & voluntary opportunities!

- CitizenScience
  www.citizenscience.gov
- The Public Science Lab
  www.robdunnnlab.com
- SciStarter
  www.scistarter.org
- Zooniverse
  www.zooniverse.org
- Connect with CURCE
  ugr@albany.edu

CHECK IT OUT

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!