

Elise Herrig

Intern, State of Connecticut Office of the Child Advocate

Grant Recipient: Class of 2010

Major: Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Psychology double major

Organization: State of Connecticut Office of the Child Advocate

Location: Hartford, CT

The major part of my internship focuses around girls incarcerated at the York Correctional Institute as juvenile and youthful offenders. I am creating a database of information to track pathways for adolescent girls into the adult prison system. As part of this process, I have attended meetings and presentations at the Legislative Office Building, Department of Children and Families, the Manson Correctional Institute for boys, and the York Correctional Institute for women. I am able to play an active role in the office and in creating my internship experience based within the needs of the office, taking this project from the ground up. It has been an amazing experience and a behind the scenes look at the prison system, the Department of Children and Families, and the inner workings of the Child Advocate office, and I am able to leave behind a project that can help the office to advocate on behalf of girls at-risk or involved in the criminal justice system.

Jiun Kimm



Urban Education Leaders Intern, District of Columbia Public Schools Office of the Chancellor

Grant Recipient: Class of 2010

Major: Economics

Organization: District of Columbia Public Schools Office of the Chancellor Urban Education Leaders Internship Program

Location: Washington, DC

I am working as a junior associate on the School Openings Team at the Chancellor's office for DC Public Schools (DCPS). The goal of School Openings is to ensure that schools are safe, equipped, and ready for instruction by the first day of school. I am responsible for a portfolio of thirty-six schools, and I work with principals to make sure each school is set in the areas of textbooks and supplies, facilities, scheduling, and staffing. Working for DCPS has been an incredible experience because of Michelle Rhee's astounding work in her two years as Chancellor. DCPS is at the forefront of education reform, and while the district still has a long way to go, I have been amazed to see change occurring right before my eyes. I have learned so much from my internship already because of the large amount of responsibility and accountability that my job allows me. Not only have I learned a lot about education reform, but I've greatly improved my skills in leadership, communication, and organization. In addition, I've gained a much clearer sense of what I want and don't want in a career, which is something that's very important to me as a graduating senior next year. Thus far, my time with DCPS has been both very enriching and very fun!

Arielle Knight



Research and Policy Intern, SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective

Grant Recipient: Class of 2011

Major: African American Studies and Feminist Gender Sexuality Studies

Organization: SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective

Location: Atlanta, GA

This summer, I am doing my part in the reproductive justice movement as an intern at SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective under the supervision of Heidi Williamson, Advocacy and Membership Coordinator. It has been incredibly rewarding both personally and professionally. I have had the opportunity work with women who each offer something invaluable to the organization. My internship at SisterSong has taught me a major lesson on what it takes to run an organization and become a part of the movement. It takes the coordinated efforts of many extremely dedicated people working both individually and collectively.

For the two months that I've been here, I have worked closely with Heidi on the preliminary planning for the Urban Initiative conference. We have toiled endlessly to ensure that the event will be attended by government officials, individual members and partner organizations. In addition, we have worked on creating a map of SisterSong's widespread membership network. Most recently, I took part in Reproductive Justice training which has given me a strong sense of how SisterSong's mission is implemented.

Allison Quantz

Fundraising and Development Intern, MADRE

Grant Recipient: Class of 2010

Major: English, French major

Organization: MADRE

Location: New York, NY

This summer I'm working as a fundraising and development intern at MADRE, an international women's human rights organization based in New York City. MADRE works with sister organizations around the world to implement community projects in three program areas: economic and environmental justice, peace building, and women's health/combatting violence against women. As the development intern, I spend my time trying to get money from people (and foundations) in order to support our work, which might not sound appealing, but is really interesting. I start by compiling lists of foundations and donors who match well with our programs, then I send out letters to those groups introducing our projects and requesting funding. Of course, I do some traditional intern work (photo-copying, filing, etc.), but my supervisor does an incredible job of letting me be part of the whole process—which is great, because hopefully I'll be doing this full-time next year!