

The 2015 Carleton Social Justice Internships

Made possible through the Barry “Mike” Casper and Paul and Sheila Wellstone Fund for Community Engagement, the Clement F. Shearer Fund for Achieving Common Ground, the Interfaith Social Action Fund, and the Broom Fund for Social Justice.

About the Program

Carleton’s Social Justice Internship Program was established in 2007 to provide financial support to students pursuing unpaid or low-paying summer internships or training programs in not-for profit or other organizations promoting social justice in the United States. Examples of qualifying internships/training programs include work in human rights, community or union organizing, environmental or social activism, conflict resolution, or community development. The program is administered by the Chaplain’s Office. Approximately fifteen grants, up to \$3000 each, are awarded competitively by a selection committee. Students from all class years are eligible, including graduating seniors. Summer reflection blogs and a short written report after the internship are required, and for those on campus in the fall, there will be a “bring back” poster session and dinner.

How to Apply

1. Two paths into finding an internship:

A. Several organizations have a proven track of offering meaningful internships. A **developing list of opportunities** will be posted in the Tunnel and is at http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/chaplain/Carleton_Social_Justice_Internships/. **Applications to most of those organizations are due by 5pm on March 12, 2015.**

B. **Find your own internship** through a group that interests you. For help in how to approach organizations about an internship, please contact the Chaplain’s Office, the Career Center, or the Center for Community and Civic Engagement.

2. Secure a written agreement from an organization documenting its commitment to host you in a summer internship or training position. This can take some time—start early!

3. Apply by 5:00pm on April 10, 2015 for Carleton Social Justice Internship funding.

A. **For current First Years, Sophomores, and Juniors:** apply through the Career Center’s site at: (<https://apps.carleton.edu/career/students/internships/Fund/>). Be sure to check "Social Justice" under the "Category of Internship" in "Internship Information".

B. **For current seniors:** submit a **written copy of your proposal to the Chaplain’s Office.** Your proposal must include:

1. a **cover letter** explaining your interest in this particular work, what you will actually be doing during your internship or training, and how this might fit with your long term goals;
2. **your resume** that includes your previous service experience, involvement in social or environmental justice issues, and your language skills, if relevant;
3. the **written commitment from your sponsoring organization;**
4. a **budget worksheet** (<https://apps.carleton.edu/campus/chaplain/assets/SJIBudget.docx>)
5. **contact information for two references.**

Evaluation Criteria

In evaluating proposals, the Social Justice Internship selection committee looks at both the proposed internship and at the student, and asks the following questions:

1. Will the internship involve the student in meaningful work?
2. To what extent will the sponsoring organization pay real attention to the student's learning?
3. Does the work of the organization and/or the work of the internship fit with the student's vocation or career goals for the future?
4. Has the student made the case for his or her genuine interest in the arena of the internship?
5. Is the internship concerned with social justice (structural change) or social service work? If the latter, has the student made the case for how this is tied to social justice work?

History

In establishing the Carleton Social Justice Internship program, the families of Mike Casper, Paul and Shelia Wellstone, Clem Shearer, and the anonymous donors to the Interfaith Social Action Fund, hope that dedicated, socially concerned Carleton students will have greater opportunity to enact their ideals and have a positive impact on the wider world.

Barry “Mike” Casper, professor emeritus of physics at Carleton and a leading figure in the peace movement, died on January 27, 2007. Along with close friend and faculty colleague Paul Wellstone, Casper chronicled the story of the 1970s struggles of western Minnesota farmers to oppose a high voltage powerline in the book, *Powerline: The First Battle of America's Energy War* (University of Massachusetts Press, 1981). Never ones to observe from the ivory tower, the duo became central figures, along with a number of their students, in the highly charged protest movement.

Casper later became a key strategist in Wellstone's 1990 U.S. Senate campaign and his policy adviser in Washington. The experience informed his final book, *Lost in Washington: Finding the Way Back to Democracy in America* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2000).

As a professor, Casper co-created Carleton's Science, Technology, and Public Policy program and supervised annual policy projects in which students were confronted with pressing societal problems—nuclear weapons proliferation, the AIDS epidemic, a national energy strategy, health care reform—and charged with solving them. Throughout his teaching, Casper put the ideals of equality, sustainability, and social justice into action.

Senator Paul and Shelia Wellstone, along with six others, died in a plane crash on October 25, 2002. Wellstone was first elected to the United States Senate in 1990 and became an outspoken advocate for many social justice issues and a leading voice for liberal Democrats. His book, *Conscience of a Liberal: Reclaiming the Compassionate Agenda* (Random House, 2001), still helps to shape the progressive agenda. His wife Shelia played a critical role in all of Paul's campaigns and was known for her influential work in issues regarding domestic violence.

A professor of political science at Carleton for 21 years, Wellstone, like Casper, was known for using his professorship as a successful platform for tangible, ground-level social change. Students in introductory political science classes taught by Wellstone found themselves not only challenged to think about issues of poverty and inequality but actually knocking on doors throughout Rice County in an effort to organize around local issues of fairness. Wellstone described this work in his *How the Rural Poor Got Power: Narrative of a Grass Roots Organizer* (University of Massachusetts Press, 1978).

Clement F. Shearer was Carleton's Dean for Budget and Planning and Professor of Geology when he died in 1998. Before coming to Carleton, Shearer had a distinguished career in government service, first as a congressional science fellow, then as director of the national hazards program at the U.S. Geological Survey,

providing analysis and early warnings for volcanoes, earthquakes and other natural hazards. He began his tenure at Carleton as the Bernstein Geologist in residence, taught a popular seminar in hydrology in the Geology Department, and became one of the most admired and respected administrators of the College.

In addition to his contributions to the planning and management of the College, Shearer continued to be a strong advocate of community service. He was a dedicated volunteer leader in many Northfield activities, held several positions on the Board of Directors of the Greater Minneapolis Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, and served as advisor to a number of national organizations. In recognition of his unusual ability to guide individuals through conflict resolution, the Clement F. Shearer Fund for Achieving Common Ground was established through gifts received in his memory.

The **Interfaith Social Action Endowed Fund** was established in 2008 to provide support for programs and activities related to the intersection of faith and social action through the Carleton College Chaplain's Office. The fund has become an important source of support for the Carleton Social Justice Internship Program as well as the activities of the Carleton Interfaith Social Action Group.

(revised: 1/6/15)