Social Justice Internship 2019 Community Partner Opportunities

Several organizations, often directed by Carleton alumni, have a proven record of offering students meaningful internships. Applications for these Community Partner Opportunities are due by 11:59pm on March 4, 2019. All class years (including seniors) should apply through the Career Center’s Tunnel. Accepted students will then apply for funding through the Social Justice Internships.


For the last 40 years there has been a strong and effective effort to weaken the American labor movement. The most recent attack took the form of a U.S. Supreme Court decision in Janus v. AFSCME, which overturned laws or contract provisions covering public sector unions and members in 22 states that required all the workers in a unionized bargaining unit to pay their fair share of the costs of negotiating and enforcing union contracts. Public sector unions across the country are now strictly voluntary organizations. Unions that did not prepare for the decision face large potential membership losses. The Amalgamated Transit Workers prepared for the court decision by training hundreds of leaders with the help of the Industrial Areas Foundation (Metro IAF). The result has been minimal membership loss and a union which is arguably stronger now than it was three years ago.

The mixing of labor organizing with community organizing concepts and practices has created other opportunities: Referendums to expand public transport; corporate responsibility campaigns to gain first contracts; organizing of transit riders. Many of these efforts and experiments are ongoing.

Can the long-term decline in union membership be halted and reversed with a rich mixture of strategies? Can the success in preparing for the Janus decision be duplicated in already existing “Right to Work” states? These are exciting questions and challenges that the union and the IAF are working on right now.

About the Internship

The internship is an opportunity for the right candidates to work closely in the Washington, DC area with experienced union and community organizers as they build on the success of this relationship and experiment further with mixing the organizing cultures. The internship would include some “turf” where the intern, in close cooperation with a professional organizer, would get to conduct individual meetings, small group meetings and help organize focused actions.

IAF founder Saul Alinsky himself was heavily influenced by United Mine Workers President (and CIO founder) John L. Lewis and the CIO organizing efforts in the “Back of the Yards” in Chicago in the 1930s. This internship is an opportunity to witness and participate as Alinsky’s organization returns the favor and helps bring back to the labor movement some of what it learned from it 80 years ago. For more information, please contact Carolyn Fure-Slocum (cfureslo).

2. Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, Twin Cities, with Debra Rodgers and Lee Blons ’82

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative consists of over 80 congregations across the metro area committed to ending homelessness. To reach our goal, we come together to:
- develop affordable and supportive housing,
- provide emergency shelter through our Families Moving Forward program, and
- advocate for the public policies and resources necessary to end homelessness.
Beacon congregations commit as institutions to work in a deep and meaningful way toward ending homelessness by becoming part of the collaborative. They agree to educate and mobilize members, to provide leadership, contribute financial resources, and invite other congregations into the collaborative. By working together toward a shared vision and goals, congregations become stronger as institutions and have a greater community impact.

**About the internship:**
The internship is part of Beacon’s Congregational Organizing and Engagement Department. Working with the Congregational Organizers, the intern will help Beacon congregations affect state and/or local public policy so that there are more resources to provide housing and serve people coming out of homelessness.

You will engage congregations and their congregants in organizing and advocacy efforts to address specific issues homelessness and to build the power of Beacon and its congregational partners. You will work with one or more of our Congregational Organizers on an organizing campaign to secure approval and funding for a specific housing development in a community. This would include congregational presentations, events, and mobilizing support through postcards or letter writing campaigns.

As part of this work, the intern will attend meetings with leaders of the various congregations and related campaigns, meet with their elected leaders, and learn about how housing and services are delivered to people coming out of homelessness. You will learn about the intersection of values, faith and power in a practical and ever changing environment. For more information, please contact Carolyn Fure-Slocum (cfureslo).

**3. Binger Center for New Americans with Ben Casper Sanchez ’90, Linus Chan, Deepinder Singh Mayell and Kjerstin Yager**
The James H. Binger Center for New Americans works collaboratively with partner organizations to help expand representation to non-citizens facing removal proceedings and pursues strategic federal court litigation to improve laws and policy for immigrants and mitigate harsh potential policies. The Binger Center also engages in education and outreach to immigrant and refugee communities.

Interns will work with Binger Center faculty and staff including Ben Casper Sanchez ’90, Linus Chan, Deepinder Singh Mayell and Kjerstin Yager. Interns will be responsible for supporting legal and educational outreach to the immigrant community. This will include supporting our legal team with several types of intake and follow-up for those seeking assistance. Duties may include working with ongoing cases, research, policy campaigns, and day-to-day support in all types of immigration cases. Policy work may focus on shaping new immigration-related laws or regulations at both the federal and state levels. Litigation support may include interviewing clients and drafting declarations, researching state and federal statutes, and compiling materials on human rights practices or other matters for use in immigration cases.

To qualify for the internships, students should be able to speak Spanish or Somali and be interested in immigration law, education and policy. Flexibility and commitment to access and support for immigrants are also needed. The internships will be full time from June to August. Students will have an amazing opportunity to learn about cutting edge immigration work from individuals who are deeply committed to it, as well as the chance to contribute to implementing policies with the potential to change people’s lives. For more information, please contact Carolyn Fure-Slocum (cfureslo).
4. IAF Northwest – Community & Health Equity Organizing, Seattle WA, with Joe Chrastil ’78
The IAF Northwest (http://iafnw.org/about-iaf-northwest) provides support and organizing assistance to its 9 affiliated organizations in WA, OR, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The affiliates unite diverse groups of religious, education, health, labor and community organizations around shared values: the inherent sacredness of all people -demanding that they be treated with dignity and respect – and the common good. Organizing practices are designed to acknowledge each person’s uniqueness, break down biases and stereotypes, invest in leadership capacity and create relational trust that leads to action addressing the systemic causes of injustice.

The IAF Northwest and its affiliates have a long list of successful campaigns addressing immigrant detentions, housing access, green jobs, sick leave, transportation and police accountability, to name a few. The organization has also developed a multi-dimensional Health Equity Initiative that includes student organizing on several campuses, training for family medicine residents and patient & staff organizing at low-income community health centers.

The internship is designed to provide opportunities for exploring potential careers in community organizing. Interns will learn and practice the basics of IAF organizing; building "power with"; doing relational meetings; conducting power analyses; running effective campaigns, etc. They will be given opportunities to both work on issue campaigns and support the clinic based organizing efforts. For more information, please contact Carolyn Fure-Slocum (cfureslo).

5. Immigrant Law Center of MN, with John Keller P’13 and Margaret Martin
There are exciting opportunities to build greater inclusion and equity in immigration law and policy in Minnesota, working both with individuals and organizations at local and national levels. The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota is the State’s largest provider of free legal services for diverse immigrant and refugee communities.

Interns will report to John Keller P’13 and Margaret Martin at the ILCM and will be responsible for supporting legal representation and educational outreach to the immigrant community. Each volunteer term will begin with an assessment of both the student’s individual goals and the areas of highest need in the immigrant and refugee communities. Often this will include supporting our legal team with several types of intake and follow-up for those seeking assistance. Duties may include working on on-going cases, research, policy campaigns, and day-to-day support in all types of immigration cases. Interns may also work on the Minnesota Detention Project, which provides free legal screenings to unrepresented detained immigrants in deportation proceedings. These screenings identify potential relief, and evaluate if there are free, full-representation legal services available for the respondent.

To qualify for the internship, students should ideally be able to speak Spanish, Somali or Hmong and be interested in immigration law, education and policy. Flexibility and commitment to fair treatment and support for immigrants are also needed. The internships will be full time from June to August. Students will have an amazing opportunity to learn about essential immigration legal and policy work from professionals who are deeply committed to it and work directly with clients to improve their immigration status. For more information, please contact Carolyn Fure-Slocum (cfureslo).
6. ISAIAH Faith-based Community Organizing with Alexa Horwart, JaNaé Bates, and Kathryn Lozada ‘12

ISAIAH is a faith-based organization committed to being a vehicle for congregations and people of faith to work collectively for racial, economic, and environmental justice in Minnesota. ISAIAH is grounded in using the principles and practices of community-based organizing to achieve its mission; the primary strategy of ISAIAH is to develop the capacity and leadership of grassroots people of faith and religious leaders to be agents of change in their communities and in Minnesota.

Southern MN Organizing Internship

ISAIAH has been very involved in the campaigns to raise the minimum wage, maintain funding for public health care programs, fighting for immigrants without documentation to be able to gain a driver’s license, and working for equal access to renewable energy. At the same time, ISAIAH has begun building a strong network of congregations in Greater MN in places such as St. Cloud, Willmar, and Northfield. The intern will work with the lead Southern MN Organizer to develop a process for rural leaders to connect their life experience and stories to statewide campaigns for justice.

This work will likely include:

- Work with grassroots leaders in multiple congregations to hold 1-1 and/or small group meetings around people’s experiences of issues such as housing, climate, immigration, healthcare, etc.
- Work with Southern MN Organizer on issue campaigns that can include research visits with local officials and partners, public actions, and shaping the narrative through social media.

The full-time intern will work over an 8-10 week period. The intern will be based in Northfield but must have access to a car because work may include travel around Southern MN and to the Cities. Ability to speak Spanish is a plus but not required.

Communications Internship

The Communications Intern will work directly with ISAIAH’s Communications Director. The intern will be trained on executing strategic communications in social justice movement spaces by using narrative shifting language and storytelling across race, class, and religion.

The skills to be potentially exercised and developed include:

- Written and verbal communications
- Copy Editing
- Social Media Skills (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram)
- Traditional Media and Press Relations (Print, Radio and Television)
- Blogging
- Storytelling and Narrative Shifting
- Photography and Videography
- Digital Organizing

The full time intern will work over an 8-10 week period based in the Twin Cities. For more information about both of these ISAIAH internships, please contact Carolyn Fure-Slocum (cfureslo).
7. The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation with Peter Hill ’00 and Matthew Rama
The Pine Ridge Reservation (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pine_Ridge_Indian_Reservation) is one of the largest reservations in North America. It encompasses 3,500 square miles of rolling prairie, pine hills, and badlands, and is larger than Rhode Island and Delaware combined. Many volunteer opportunities exist in the many reservation communities, particularly during the summer. Shannon County, which makes up the majority of reservation land, is the poorest county in the United States, and there are many reservation-based advocacy organizations and non-profits making a positive difference in the communities.

Peter Hill ’00 has been living and working on the reservation for 18 years. He works with the Lakota Immersion Childcare Program (http://thundervalley.org/live-rez/our-programs/lakota-language), which he founded in 2012. Interns with a diverse set of skills could work on some of his many projects and initiatives. For example, in 2015 a Carleton intern helped to write grants and do program outreach/publicity. Technology skills and artistic abilities are also needed to help create Lakota online multimedia programs. An eagerness to pitch in and help where needed is the most important quality we seek in an intern. Obviously, Lakota language knowledge is not a prerequisite, although you will likely pick up a lot while you’re here!

Peter also has connections to many other programs on the reservation, and is willing to help connect potential summer volunteers with a variety of different work opportunities, including sustainable housing, community development, education, and health care. If you are interested in applying, please first contact Carolyn Fure-Slocum (cfureslo) for more information about this challenging and meaningful opportunity.

8. TakeAction Minnesota, Twin Cities, with Amanda Otero ’09, Patrick Burke ‘14, and Cindy Yang
TakeAction Minnesota works year round to make change that matters to Minnesotans by organizing at the grassroots, building dynamic and effective coalitions, educating voters, endorsing and electing progressive candidates, impacting state and local policy, and winning issue campaigns. Our work is focused on winning tangible victories that improve people’s lives and also on building the progressive movement to expand what is politically possible. Currently, we're working on winning universal health care, removing barriers to jobs and democracy for people with criminal records, and working towards quality, sustainable jobs for all. In the summer of 2019, TakeAction is offering one internship:

The Data & Digital Intern will fuse leadership development with analytical skills around data collection and digital organizing. Assisting with our data and digital programs, the intern will gain experience in shaping public narratives online, digital storytelling, and developing a data justice framework. Applicants should have experience with (or an aptitude to learn) Excel and database skills. The intern’s time will be divided roughly in half between digital communications and data management.

In all of our organizing work, we are committed to developing leaders and building capacity. We take the same approach in working with interns; we see it as a chance to help develop the skills and experience of budding organizers who will work side-by-side with us to create social change for years to come. Interns will work full-time as part of the organizing team. They will be expected to participate in relevant staff meetings and organizing team meetings, where we assess challenges and opportunities in our work and develop strategies for accomplishing goals. Interns will participate in organizing and skills trainings
alongside staff, including trainings both from internal staff and from external trainers who are brought in. And like staff members, interns will have regular individual check-ins with their organizer supervisor, chosen based on their area of interest. For more information, please contact Carolyn Fure-Slocum (cfureslo).