Carleton Social Justice Internship Opportunities

Several organizations, often directed by Carleton alumni, have proven to offer students meaningful internships. While students are welcome to pursue internships with other organizations, a few opportunities are listed below (but please check back occasionally, as this list will be developing).

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, in the Twin Cities, with Michael Dahl & Lee Blons ’82

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative consists of over 50 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 share vision and goals, congregations become stronger as institutions and have a greater community impact.

About the internship:

The internship is part of Beacon’s New Projects Department. Working with the Advocacy Coordinator and Congregational Partnership Organizer, 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 advocacy to end homelessness. This will include helping Beacon Citizens (people who commit to take monthly actions) write letters to and meet with elected officials, as well as educate their community about homelessness and how to end it.

You may also work with a Congregational Partnership Organizer 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 other advocates and advocacy groups,
meet with their elected leaders, and learn about how housing and services are delivered to people coming out of homelessness.

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For more information, please contact Carolyn Fure-Slocum.

Growing Up Healthy— Farmer to Family Program, in Rice County, MN, with Leah Eby ’13

Growing Up Healthy works to increase the community connectedness of marginalized families in Rice County. We approach this mission through three interrelated areas of work:

1. **The work of our community organizers (“Neighborhood Leaders”):** Growing Up Healthy creates, trains, and supports teams of Neighborhood Leaders in 5 target neighborhoods throughout Rice County (primarily Latino immigrant and Somali refugee neighborhoods). Neighborhood Leaders are prepared to serve as advocates both within and beyond their neighborhoods, helping communities organize and providing a human bridge over many of the existing gaps – connecting people, programs and resources.

2. **Systems change:** Our second strategy is to identify and address policies and structures that can improve the lives of marginalized families. This work is directly informed by the work of the Neighborhood Leaders. Through consistent contact between the Growing Up Healthy Advisory Board and the cohort of Neighborhood Leaders, we hope to create a dialog between the directors of the partner agencies and the community members who utilize the programs.

3. **Increased community education and awareness about the social determinants of health:** Our third strategy involves educating the wider community about the connections between health and affordable housing, social connectedness, social policy, and wealth vs. poverty.

**About the Internship:**

This internship is with Growing Up Healthy’s Farmer to Family program, developed by Neighborhood Leaders and community partners to overcome the main barriers to food access – cost, transportation, and nutrition education – by bringing affordable, fresh, and local produce.
to low-income families in Rice County during the summer (July – September). This is accomplished through Growing Up Healthy’s weekly “In the Park” evening programming, designed to offer residents of our target neighborhoods the opportunity to get to know or deepen relationships with one another and with community organizations and resources. At these “In the Park” events, the Farmer to Family program runs a mobile vegetable market that sells produce from local farmers to low-income families at a reduced price and teaches nutrition classes and cooking demos to demonstrate why and how to integrate fresh, local vegetables into a family’s meal plans.

As an intern with the Farmer to Family program, you will coordinate the Farmer to Family component of the “In the Park” programming, which includes: working with Neighborhood Leaders to publicize the program, working with local farms to collect produce for weekly mobile markets, staffing the mobile markets, planning and implementing cooking demonstrations or nutrition lessons for kids and adults using local produce, and engaging participants in learning about local food and building community.

As part of this work, you will attend meetings with Growing Up Healthy Neighborhood Leaders and the Advisory Board, meet with program partners, and learn about your local community from a social justice perspective. Spanish and Somali speakers, as well as anyone with an interest/experience in food justice, are strongly encouraged to apply!

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The Haiti Justice Alliance in Northfield with Paul Miller and the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti in Boston

The Haiti Justice Alliance of Northfield (HJA, [http://www.haitijusticealliance.org](http://www.haitijusticealliance.org)) is a local non-profit whose mission is to work for the sustainable structural changes needed in Haiti to provide social, political and economic rights to all Haitians. HJA has developed an alternative engagement model that emphasizes learning and understanding ahead of intervention and imposed expertise. HJA works with grass roots groups in the US and in Haiti that are committed to long-term solutions for Haiti. Each organization that we partner with must have as its ultimate goal the empowerment of Haitians to work for the betterment of their country.
HJA facilitates internships for Carleton students that are actively involved with the Haiti Justice Alliance and participates in their alternative engagement model. Internship opportunities through HJA include:

**Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti** ([http://www.ijdh.org/](http://www.ijdh.org/)) is the US affiliate of the Haiti-based Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI), which has over 19 years of demonstrated success enforcing Haitians’ human rights, in Haiti and abroad. We work in four areas: 1) impact litigation that opens the doors of Haitian, international and U.S. courts to precedent-setting human rights cases; 2) documentation that provides public officials, human rights advocates and grassroots activists the reliable information they need to speak up for human rights in Haiti; 3) transnational grassroots advocacy that compels governments and powerful institutions in Haiti and abroad to respect Haitians’ human rights; and 4) systemic capacity building that develops a corps of Haitian human rights lawyers and advocates trained to fight for sustainable change in their country.

**Development & Communications Intern**

The positions are ideal for students interested in social justice and human rights, fundraising, communications, and office administration for small nonprofits. The position provides excellent experience and training in many aspects of the functioning of a nonprofit. Proficiency in Kreyol and/or French is preferred.

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**HealthFinders, in Rice County, MN, with Charlie Mandile ’07**

Since 2005, HealthFinders Collaborative ([http://healthfindersmn.org/getinvolved/](http://healthfindersmn.org/getinvolved/)) has been providing a comprehensive and individualized access point to health and wellness opportunities. Our primary care services address immediate and ongoing needs, while an extensive patient advocacy program actively connects the under and uninsured with long-term resources and community programs. Depending on the intern’s interest and HealthFinders’ needs, positions include: Health and Wellness Intern, Evaluation Intern Marketing and Social Media Intern, and Patient Care Interns.
*Applications are due on Friday, February 27th at noon to HealthFinders at
sanders.megan@healthfindersmn.org.
HealthFinders will notify selected students by March 12th.
*Selected students should apply then for funding by April 10th to one of several internship funds.
For more information, please contact Kelly Scheuerman in the CCCE.

**Immigration Law Outreach, Southern MN, with John Keller P'13 and Ben Casper '90**

In the fall of 2014, immigration policies changed, extending the opportunity to many more individuals to apply for temporary residency through DACA and DAPA. This has the potential to affect several thousand people in southeastern Minnesota. In order to help implement this policy shift, Carleton, the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM), and the Center for New Americans (CNA) at the University of Minnesota are collaborating to host up to three Carleton interns at the ILCM to support outreach and application efforts.

Interns will report to John Keller P'13 at the ILCM and will work in partnership with Ben Casper '90 at the CNA. The interns will be responsible for supporting the legal and educational outreach to the immigrant community. This will include creating print and electronic materials, organizing information sessions, connecting with people in rural MN communities, assisting with the accumulation of evidence, providing information about the new administrative procedures and policies, and assisting in all portions of the application process. The policies are set to go into effect around May 20th, but if the start date is delayed, the students will continue to support the outreach and educational work of the ILCM across the state.

To qualify for the internships, students should ideally be able to speak Spanish, be able to drive (students will be able to use campus vehicles for the internship if they are campus drivers) and be interested in immigration law and related issues. 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 this cutting edge immigration work from individuals who are deeply committed to it, as well as the chance to contribute to implementing a policy which has the potential to change people’s lives.

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For more information, please contact Carolyn Fure-Slocum or Kelly Scheuerman.
ISAIAH Faith-based Community Organizing, Twin Cities, with Doran Schrantz

ISAIAH is a faith-based organization committed to being a vehicle for congregations and people of faith to work collectively for racial and economic 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. Although it has always had a commitment to racial justice, in the last five years, ISAIAH has deepened its focus and commitment to being a racial justice organization. ISAIAH has a formal partnership with the Minnesota State Baptist Convention, the largest African-American denomination in Minnesota as well as 10 new member congregations that are predominantly African-American. These partner congregations have created and led a series of campaigns focused on confronting the systemic problem of the mass incarceration of African-Americans and people of color in our state and country, working to reduce detentions for juveniles, out of school suspensions for young children in the public schools, and racial profiling by police.

In response to this work, as well as the emerging public movement to stop police brutality and the unnecessary killings of young, black men by police, the African-American congregations in relationship with ISAIAH have expressed interest in the following:

- Congregational listening sessions around this intersection of issues;
- Creating a safe, accountable space to have clergy and congregation members talk to top level police officials about their concerns;
- Co-create a possible collective agenda that would build trust between police and the community as well as ensure accountability between police and communities.

Over a 10 week period and with mentorship from a senior organizer, a full time intern could work with 2-3 congregations and their clergy to host listening sessions in each congregation as well as design, with congregational leaders, a collective conversation with police officials about moving forward together.

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The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation with Peter Hill '00

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 that work hard to make a positive difference in the communities. Peter Hill '00 has been living and working on the reservation for 14 years. He would love a summer intern or two for the Lakota immersion daycare program that he founded and administers (www.lakotalearners.com). 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. These include:

Earth Tipi (www.earthtipi.org, www.facebook.com/earthipi) - Sustainable housing, natural building, food growing, alternative energy, sustainable housing. Lots of opportunity for hands-on volunteer work! Camping amenities on site.


Thunder Valley Community Development Corp. (www.thundervalley.org, www.facebook.com/thundervalleycdc) - "Empowering Lakota youth and families to improve the health, culture and environment of our communities, through the healing and strengthening of cultural identity." Thunder Valley is in the process of launching a revolutionary planned community project to help address the lack of quality, affordable housing on the reservation.

The Heritage Center at Red Cloud Indian School (www.redcloudschool.org/page.aspx?pid=393, www.facebook.com/TheHeritageCenteratRedCloud) - One of the premiere collections of Native American art in the nation. Summer is high time for the Heritage Center, as a result of their renowned Indian Art Show.

Lakota Waldorf School (www.lakotawaldorphschool.org, www.facebook.com/lakota.waldorf) - "The Lakota Waldorf School strives to initiate the educational process while maintaining the Lakota language and culture. Our goal is to empower our Lakota children so they will create positive, active futures for themselves and their community." A variety of summer volunteer possibilities.

Sweet Grass Project (www.sprc.org/grantees/oglala-sioux-tribe, www.facebook.com/pages/Sweet-Grass-Project/197344923627712) - The tribe's grant-funded suicide education and prevention program. The Sweet Grass project was created in response to a rash of community suicides - particularly involving youth - during the late 2000s.
Pine Ridge Hospital - (www.ihs.gov/aberdeen/index.cfm?module=ab_ao_hf_prsu) - Those interested in going into the medical field may be able to find internship work at the reservation's only hospital, or in one of the associated community clinics. Behavioral Health, for example, would be a good fit for someone interested in going into psychotherapy or counseling.

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Sound Alliance/IAF NW, in Seattle WA, with Joe Chrastil ’78

The Sound Alliance (http://iafnw.org/soundalliance) is a broad-based organizing group, affiliated with the national Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), which seeks to build power for the common good in the Seattle-Tacoma area in Washington. Interns will learn the basics of IAF organizing, including the iron rule: never do for someone what they can do for themselves. Recent campaigns have been around homelessness and poverty, immigration, and green jobs. Besides working toward systemic local change, interns will develop the leadership capacity of themselves and others, and learn to think politically and work relationally with others. There will be opportunities for attending and teaching our trainings; working with communications through website, Facebook, and email; research; meeting local leaders; and helping put on events.

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**TakeAction Minnesota, in the Twin Cities, with Amanda Otero ’09**

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.

TakeAction Minnesota’s work focuses in these areas: The Together for Health campaign is a multi-year effort to achieve universal, publicly funded health care. The Justice 4 All campaign focuses on addressing barriers experienced by people with criminal records that make it difficult or impossible for ex-offenders to support themselves and their families and contribute to their communities. The Organizing a New Economy campaign seeks to win quality, sustainable jobs for all.

The Organizing Intern will work primarily within one of these three areas depending on program needs and the intern’s interests. Of course, there may be times when interns are involved in “all-hands on deck” moments across the organization. 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 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 skill 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 supervisor.

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