

A few examples of **POLITICS and POLITICAL ORGANIZING**
Placements available through
The Philadelphia Center

Kensington Welfare Rights Union; Student Organizer: The Kensington Welfare Rights Union (KWRU) is a multiracial organization of, by and for poor and homeless people. KWRU is dedicated to organizing welfare recipients, the homeless, the working poor and all people concerned with economic justice. While KWRU has spearheaded the national organization the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, the organization is based in Kensington, a neighborhood in North Philadelphia. Once a center for manufacturing, Kensington is now the poorest district in the state of Pennsylvania. KWRU was started by a group of poor women in April 1991 who came together with three basic objectives: (1.) speak to the issues which directly affect the lives of poor people by testifying at local, state and national hearings and speaking at welfare offices, college campuses, religious congregations, union halls, social service agencies; (2) help all poor people get the basic necessities of life - food, clothing, utilities, medical care and housing; and (3.) organize a broad-based movement to end poverty. KWRU works closely with the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Workers, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, the Labor Party, and the National Welfare Rights Union and has growing relationships with students, the women's movement, lawyers, social workers, artists, musicians and a variety of community organizations. A student intern at KWRU will assist with problem solving in the office, from calling welfare caseworkers to planning events at the tent city, to student outreach and organizing. Opportunity to learn how a grassroots community organization operates, challenge stereotypes about poverty, and help make a difference.

City of Philadelphia City Council; Policy Intern: Join this dynamic and fast paced Philadelphia City Council office and learn about municipal government from the inside. Instead of reading the newspaper you will be where news is made! Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr. has only been in office six months but in that time he has been able to make a real difference in the lives of every-day folks in his district and beyond. Of particular significance was his successful effort to bring about a moratorium on mortgage foreclosure (sheriff) sales. He brought advocates, lenders and the courts together and as a result one of the most creative programs in the nation was launched, the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania Foreclosure Diversion Program, which will help many homeowners facing foreclosure remain in their homes. Councilman Jones is the Chair of City Council's Committee on Transportation and Public Utilities. This committee is likely to be very busy in the coming months as we are confronted with skyrocketing energy costs. If selected, you will work in Councilman Curtis Jones Jr. Office, to provide direct service to the 4th district community. You will also work on a wide-array of projects and assignments, as dictated by the Councilman's committee obligations, legislative aims and the community's needs, which will develop and refine your professional skills. Areas in which interns may be expected to work include: legislation, community relations, media and public relations, economic analysis, best practices and primary research, program planning, and/or organizational and administrative support. We are looking for energetic, creative, out-of-the-box thinkers interested in an extraordinary internship experience.

State Senator Allyson Schwartz; Community Relations Intern: Allyson Y. Schwartz is serving her fourth term as State Senator from the 4th Senatorial District, which includes portions of Philadelphia and Montgomery counties. She is the senior woman legislator in the PA Senate and a leading PA member of the moderate Democratic Leadership Council (DLC). Senator Schwartz's current top legislative priorities demand performance and accountability from government. Her legislation seeks to ensure quality health, quality education, and security for all PA families. Community Relations Intern will design, plan, and implement special projects; meet with constituents and community groups; recruit

volunteers; write press releases; travel with the Senator; research legislation; and more. Wonderful opportunity to learn about the legislative process and state policy relating to education, health care, and other issues.

Urban Industry Initiative; Initiative Intern: The Urban Industry Initiative's (UII) mission is to create and retain manufacturing jobs in Philadelphia neighborhoods through a comprehensive strategy that strengthens businesses and builds relationships between manufacturers and their community. Philadelphia's neighborhoods contain thriving industrial businesses and a well-trained residential workforce that strengthen one another. It's a dynamic environment that attracts move-ins, encourages entrepreneurs, and supports business expansion. The UII will become a national model for stabilizing manufacturing and creating a robust neighborhood workforce within an urban setting. Studies in economics, public policy an urban planning will be reinforced. The students will learn the importance of the industrial sector to Philadelphia's economy, and find how manufacturing provides ample opportunities for economic and neighborhood development in the City. This internship will provide an undergraduate experience with economic and neighborhood development policy, as he or she will be assisting the Initiative with industrial land preservation policy, creating employment and education opportunities, promoting Philadelphia's manufacturing community and contributing to our City-wide Clean Up Campaign. For a student seeking an opportunity to learn economic policy and familiarization with program development. Studies should be concentrated in Public Policy, Political Science or Urban Planning. Each week the student will: assist with policy research and initiatives; assist in marketing and promoting Philadelphia's manufacturing opportunities; Research City Council and State hearings; work with our City-wide clean up campaign; perform various administrative duties for the Port Richmond corridor; database and research manufacturers; perform various administrative duties as directed by the President, Coordinator, Analyst, and Manager; investigative website research, answer phones.

The Pennsylvania Prison Society; Caseworker/Advocate: The Pennsylvania Prison Society, founded on fundamentals embedded in the United States Constitution, has been an unwavering voice for justice and humanity for more than two centuries. The Pennsylvania Prison Society's mission is to advocate for a humane, just and restorative correctional system, and to promote a rational approach to criminal justice issues. This reform agency works to improve state and county prisons and to promote alternatives to incarceration. Caseworker/Advocates are involved in prison visits, advocacy, community service, and professional publications. Student gains understanding of inmates, and families/friends of prisoners. Opportunity to learn about inmate rights and prison administration.

Project H.O.M.E.; Advocacy Intern: Since 1989, Project H.O.M.E. (Housing, Opportunities, Medical Care, and Education) has helped more than 6,800 individuals in Philadelphia break the cycle of homelessness and poverty. The mission of the Project H.O.M.E. community is to empower persons to break that cycle, to address structural causes of poverty, and to enable all people to attain full potential as individuals and as members of the broader society. This is achieved by providing a continuum of care comprised of street outreach; supportive housing; and comprehensive services including health care, education, and employment. Project H.O.M.E. also addresses the root causes of homelessness through neighborhood revitalization programs, including affordable housing development; employment training and opportunities; adult and youth education; health care; and environmental enhancement. Advocacy and Counseling Assistant works in entry-level residences, in the areas of outreach and advocacy. The placement can be designed to fit specific interests of the student drawing on a range of supportive services including: health care, mental health services, recovery services dealing with substance abuse issues, and more.

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