

THE MINORITY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FIVE UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM

Descriptive summary

The Minority Internship Program, acronym M.I.P., was established in 1984 by the Illinois General Assembly and the former Board of Governors Universities. In 1997 the Five University Consortium was established. The internship program has enabled more than 1,000 minority students from a Five University Consortium consisting of: Chicago State, Eastern Illinois, Governors State, Northeastern Illinois and Western Illinois Universities to gain practical experience while earning academic credit.

The program provides students with the opportunity to observe and participate in the practical aspects of public policy making in a variety of off campus settings. While the emphasis is on local and state government agencies, students may complete their internship in a number of other agencies that may be more relevant to their majors and career aspirations.

The purpose of the program is to: 1) improve students' understanding of the governmental and decision making process, 2) improve students' understanding of the effects that the national economy, the business community and the local government have on these offices and 3) place students in temporary positions to network, establish mentorships and to assess career goals.

The Minority Internship Program is a unique internship program. It is designed specifically for minority students; (African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Asian-Americans, Native-Americans, Pacific Islanders or Alaskan Natives) many of whom, have had limited or no exposure to executive and governmental offices in the past.

The program is open to students from all majors, ranging from graphic arts to sociology. Interns must be enrolled full-time at their respective universities. Undergraduates must be at least juniors with a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 2.75 on a 4.00 scale at the time of application. Graduate students must have a G.P.A. of 3.25 or better at the time of application.

At each of the participating universities, a committee of faculty members may be responsible for overseeing the program on the campus. This University committee may review applications and selects finalists for recommendation to the Program's director who makes the final decisions on all candidates. Supervision is provided by appropriate faculty members on each campus and the site supervisor.

Interns are required to attend monthly professional development seminars designed to augment and prepare them for successful careers. The full-time interns are appointed for one academic term and are paid a monthly stipend of \$1,000.00.