

Office of State Senator Heather Steans

Melissa Chun

2020 PICS Internship

Responsibilities

In my PICS internship, I had many responsibilities. Some of which included...

- Research and prepare policy memos on topics like gender-neutral identification legislation, reparations, Black justice, and ethics reform
- Serve as the liaison with the Every Voice Coalition and work the implementation of a national sexual assault survey across college campuses
- Draft op-eds, contact campus organizations, and edit bill drafts with other Every Voice interns
- Group and write email replies regarding constituents concerns and comments on legislation

Senator Steans and her mission

- I worked in the office of Senator Heather Steans with her two staff members and 4 other interns.
- I completely agree and support the vision and goals of Senator Steans. She strives to enact legislation that suits the needs of all of the people in her district, whether this be through improving sectors such as healthcare, housing, education.

Projects

- The majority of the internship consisted of me researching various topics, some were of a smaller scale and some were large and required working with the other interns.
- Our largest project was about slavery reparations.
 - We spent a long time researching, looking through old materials, reading through various bills to come up with a presentation to show Senator Steans and a few other senators.

Challenges

A challenge I faced at first was that I had no experience with legislative research or anything of that nature. However, I quickly overcame this by working with my supervisor and other interns. With their help and support I was able to quickly become more adept.

Overall

I feel that the most important thing I received from this internship is that I got a hands on experience in government. I wanted to spend my summer doing some career hypothesis testing and learning more about involvement in government. Because of this internship, I realize that I genuinely may want to enter politics one day. I truly had an amazing experience and am so happy I chose to intern under Senator Steans.

THANK
YOU PICS!