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White House Internship Inspires Student

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BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The White House Office of Correspondence serves the lofty purpose of keeping one of the most powerful people on the planet in touch with everyday Americans. It is a purpose with which Illinois Wesleyan University senior Jessica Kong became intimately acquainted.

Kong, a native of Lake Forest, Ill., spent last summer as an intern at the Office of Correspondence. “The Office is really a bridge between the President and the American people,” said Kong, who was one of nearly 100 interns serving at the White House.

According to the [Office’s Web site](#), the White House receives more than 165,000 letters, e-mails and faxes each week. Members of the staff and interns for the Office of Correspondence go through each message received. Kong said she saw messages to President Obama that ran the gamut. “You would hear the most heartfelt and horrific stories of people losing their homes or jobs, and then you would hear these wonderful messages of thanks or congratulations,” she said. “The whole experience definitely opened my mind to see what is happening in the nation.”

Kong said she admired the fact that the President reads 10 letters each day from citizens that arrive at the Office of Correspondence. The 10 letters are chosen based upon if they represent the mail coming into the Office, represent something timely in the news, and are compelling messages. “It amazes me that he makes the time to read those letters,” she said.

Internships at the White House are more than just office duties, said Kong. Though she was assigned to the Office of Correspondence, she and other interns were asked to carry on duties throughout the White House. Flexibility was a necessity, she said, noting she might be making copies one day, and then assisting with the Medal of Freedom ceremony the next. “You could never plan what your day would hold, but you know what you are doing is actually helping society in some way,” Kong said. “I gained such a respect for all that people in government do.”

The interns also had the chance to hear speakers from White House Senior Advisor David Axelrod to First Lady Michelle Obama, and even President Barak Obama. “There was not one day I was not inspired and motivated, even when things were stressful,” said Kong, who added she took away a new love of volunteering. “After my experience in D.C., I discovered a great passion for public service,” she said. “I had always believed in the idea of volunteering, but now it seems to me more of a real way of life.”

Kong said all interns were encouraged to live the message of the President’s Initiative, which kept interns active in the Washington, D.C. community, and with not-for-profits worldwide. “Several of the interns and I held a book drive to collect books for area women’s shelters, day care centers and for Operative Give, which sends books to schools in Africa,” she said.

When asked if she recommended the internship to other students, she nodded emphatically. “It is an incredible experience,” she said. Kong’s internship application was chosen from more than

7,000 applications received for the nearly 100 positions at the White House. “Hearing I was one of the ones chosen was an unbelievable phone call to receive,” she said.

Kong attributes her courage to submit the application to her family – both the one at home and her second family of friends and faculty at Illinois Wesleyan. “It was my sister who told me about the internship, and my mother supported me all the way,” she said. Kong added she was also inspired by the memory of her father, who died her sophomore year at Illinois Wesleyan. “My father was sick with cancer for 10 years, but if you knew him, you knew he always looked to the positive side of any situation,” she said. It was that positive nature and encouragement Kong said she found at Illinois Wesleyan as a double major in accounting and economics. “People like [Associate Professor of Accounting David] Willis, and [Robert S. Eckley Distinguished Professor of Economics Michael] Seeborg who always have positive words and support for me.”

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The White House internship in the USA will run from May 27, 2020. The White House Internship Program is a public service leadership program that provides a unique opportunity to gain valuable professional experience and build leadership skills. This hands-on program is designed to mentor and cultivate today's young leaders, strengthen their understanding of the Executive Office, and prepare them for future public service opportunities. The President, First Lady, and White House staff are committed to providing young leaders an opportunity to develop their leadership skills and serve their country through the White House Internship Program. This program was d Tips for getting the white house internship. 1. resume makeover. Read the Resume Advice on my previous Blog, Create the Perfect Resume. If you have several previous internships/work experience on your resume, make sure to keep it down to one page. Try to only include relevant work. You are applying to a Public Service internship. I asked my friend's on Twitter what they thought of the White House Internship Program for Students: "I think it's a great opportunity and definitely will look good on any resume." @schlossy, <http://www.dailydollarreport.com/>. "That would be an awesome opportunity for anyone who wanted to get in politics or public affairs." @cblaser, Student at University of Oregon. "Good idea. I bet they learn good habits there." @bookgirl96, Publicist. From a broken family to a White House internship: Inspiring story of college student who went from 'rejection' to being hired by Michelle Obama. Sequoia Baker, 22, has been Michelle Obama's unpaid intern for 4 months. From a broken family and living in inner-city public housing, Sequoia Baker was fed up with her life being stuck in a rut. The teenager's parents were unable to make her high school graduation and her prospects for the future looked bleak. But determined not to give up, the Milwaukee student bagged herself a place at college and applied for numerous internships and part-time jobs. After years of hard graft, Miss Baker's dreams were realized when she was offered the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work for Michelle Obama. The White House Internship Program provides a unique opportunity to gain valuable professional experience and build leadership skills. This hands-on program is designed to mentor and cultivate today's young leaders, strengthen their understanding of the Executive Office and prepare them for future public service opportunities. The White House Internship Program's mission is to make the "People's House" accessible to future leaders from around the nation. The application for the Summer 2014 White House Internship Program is now open. To apply for the White House Internship Program, please see A

The White House Internship Program's mission is to make the "People's House" accessible to future leaders from around the nation. The White House Internship Program is a public service leadership program that provides a unique opportunity to gain valuable professional experience and build leadership skills. While interns' responsibilities and tasks vary by department, all interns are united through weekly events, including a speaker series and professional development opportunities. Most importantly, the internship experience emphasizes community, and interns participate in service projects at non-profit organizations in Washington, D.C.

From a broken family to a White House internship: Inspiring story of college student who went from 'rejection' to being hired by Michelle Obama. Sequoia Baker, 22, has been Michelle Obama's unpaid intern for 4 months. From a broken family and living in inner-city public housing, Sequoia Baker was fed up with her life being stuck in a rut. The teenager's parents were unable to make her high school graduation and her prospects for the future looked bleak. But determined not to give up, the Milwaukee student bagged herself a place at college and applied for numerous internships and part-time jobs. After years of hard graft, Miss Baker's dreams were realized when she was offered the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work for Michelle Obama. Xavier DeGroat, a Michigan college student, just completed a landmark internship at the White House, adding to an already impressive list of accomplishments for someone who was once counted out because of his disability. Michigan student Xavier DeGroat wants to be a "Billy Graham"-like adviser to presidents.

By Marisa Schultz | Fox News. Facebook. The White House Internship Program cannot recommend who should write a letter of recommendation on your behalf. However, we encourage you to find individuals who can illustrate your qualifications, character, and commitment to public service. Current undergraduate students are NOT the only eligible applicants. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, 18 years of age on or before the first day of the internship, and meet at least one of the following criteria. The White House Internship is unpaid. Applicants are encouraged to contact educational institutions and other non-profit organizations to apply for assistance as needed. Any outside income, funding or housing assistance received as a White House intern must be pre-approved by the Office of the White House Counsel. The White House Internship Program is a government internship program that enables students and graduates to work at the White House. The White House Internship Program is unpaid. Interns must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age, and must be either a current student, recent graduate, or veteran of the United States Armed Forces. Those selected for the program are able to work in one of sixteen available presidential departments.