Capitol Pathways

Opening access to policymaking and public service to the next generation of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Leaders.

About Program:

Capitol Pathways is a paid spring internship program for college students who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). With the long-term goal of making Minnesota state government and policymaking more representative of our diverse communities, our program provides students leadership, legislative and career readiness training alongside an immersive internship experience with an organization working in policy during the legislative session. This is a spring internship from January - May, 2024.

Eligibility:

Please carefully read the following application criteria to ensure you are eligible to apply:

To be considered for this internship, you must:

- Be a current undergraduate college student in good academic standing attending an accredited undergraduate college or university in Minnesota.
- Have completed your first year in college (at least have Sophomore status) or have the equivalent in credits of a full first year student.
- Self-identify as BIPOC.
- Have a J1/F1 visa with authorization to work in the U.S. if you are an international student.
- Undocumented students are eligible to apply.
- Be available to interview with up to three organizations during the weeks of:
    - **Dates: December 4 – December 19, 2023**
- Be available to attend a mandatory paid student orientation and legislative training on:
    - **Dates: January 2 – 5, 2024**
- Be available to attend a race & equity training sometime on the week of January 22, 2024. Date to be determined.

Programming

We will continue hybrid programming for the 2024 year. Details about in-person and virtual programming will be provided to students accepted into the program.

Citizens League

Common ground. Common good.

Apply If:

This internship is **open to all students**, but may be especially appealing to those interested in civic engagement and learning about public policymaking and understanding the legislative process.

The Internship Experience:

Our goal is to provide students exposure to policymaking and first-hand experience with the legislature.

- **Training.** Students receive technical legislative training and race & equity training.
- **Cohort Meetings.** Students join a cohort of up to 35 other students and attend 4 monthly cohort meetings for networking, leadership development and professional skill-building sessions.
- **Internship Placement**. Students are placed with an organization working at or around the Capitol for the internship period. These internship sites are referred to as our host organizations/sites. All host organizations will assign a staff person as the student's direct host supervisor.
- **Stipend.** Intern at their host site a minimum of 10 hours per week and receive a minimum stipend of $3,000.
- **Internship Activities.** Intern responsibilities and duties will vary depending on the organization they intern with however, some examples include:
    - Informational interviews with legislators, Capitol staff and other policy professionals
    - Research, track and summarize bills
    - Attend committee meetings, take notes and draft summaries
    - Assist in scheduling, preparation, and staffing meetings
    - Attend events within your organization and externally
    - Write articles for social media (e-newsletters, blogs, etc.)
- **Networking.** Consistently exposed to other job, internship and networking opportunities through their host organizations, programmed social hours, alumni network and ongoing mentorship by program staff.

Selection & Placement Process

Phase One: Pre-selection
Program staff review host and student applications to determine interests and needs. Based on this information, we will pre-select student applicants to move on to the interview phase.
Phase Two: Interviews
Selected students will interview with up to three organizations. Not all students who interview will move on to Phase Three.
Phase Three: Official acceptance into the program
Program staff will make final selection based on feedback from interviews along with information from host and student applications. Program staff will notify students of their acceptance into the program and final host site placement.

Program Timeline

2023

November 1	Student application opens
November 10	Info session I (virtual)
November 16	Info session II (virtual)
November 27	Application closes
December 1	Interview notifications (phase I)
Dec. 4 — Dec. 19	Interviews (phase II)
December 22	Program status notification
December 26	Students confirm participation

2024

Jan. 2 — Jan. 5	Orientation & training
Week of Jan. 22	Race training (date TBD)
January 29	Internship start
February 16	Cohort Meeting 1
March 22	Cohort Meeting 2
April 19	Cohort Meeting 3
May 17	Cohort Meeting 4
May 24	Last day of internship

"The exposure, opportunities, and experiences I have gained from participating in Capitol Pathways have greatly impacted my career aspirations. It has pushed me to think more about the ways in which I can impact and bring change to my community."

— Stephany Lopez, Capitol Pathways alum

Join an Info Session!

Join a virtual info session on one of the following dates and times below:

- Friday, November 10 from 11am — 12pm
- Thursday, November 16 from 1pm — 2pm

RSVP to an info session by completing the form below:

https://forms.gle/cU1fEKCPGCwuUSRGA

Apply Today!

The application is open from November 1, 2023 — November 27, 2023 at 11:59 CT
citizensleague.org/CapitolPathways

Questions?

Contact Program Manager:
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