



Princeton
Internships in
Civic
Service

PICS 2010 Internship Description

Organization Name: Office of the County Executive, Office of Community Partnerships,
Montgomery County Government

Internship Location: Rockville, MD

Required Dates: Yes No If yes, internship must start on: _____ and end on _____ or
must include the period:

Housing Will Be Available to Intern: Yes No If yes, housing will be free: or housing
will cost the student:

NOTE: We can try to find a host family if the Intern would like such an arrangement.

Expected working schedule for this internship:

Start Time: 9:00 am End Time: 5:00 pm

Lunch break: 1 hour (duration) (specific time, if applicable)

Additional Information, if necessary:

(Please indicate if any of the preparation work will take place outside of the regular work schedule)

Organization Description

Please describe your organization briefly, including mission statement, activities, size etc. Please also explain the benefit that will be derived by your organization by sponsoring a Princeton intern.

Organization Description

Montgomery County (Maryland) Executive Ike Leggett created the Office of Community Partnerships (OCP) within his office when he took office in 2007. Montgomery County, Maryland seeks to be the nation's model multicultural community. The County Executive recognizes the limitations of the County government and seeks to build partnerships across sectors to accomplish community goals. The purpose of the Office of Community Partnerships is to help break down the barriers of race, income, religion, and sector that too often divide the residents of the County and to build bridges and lines of trust between community residents and our County government. The Office of Community Partnerships provides outreach to all residents with a special emphasis on empowering our ethnic, multilingual, and multicultural communities. The office works to strengthen the capacity of the County's faith-based and nonprofit organizations as essential community partners. The Montgomery County Volunteer Center is an integral part of OCP's effort to strengthen the County's civic infrastructure by empowering and engaging residents. Montgomery County is an especially promising laboratory of democracy as 30% of our almost one million residents were born in different countries. This diversity is our competitive edge in the global marketplace of the twenty-first century. For more information about the Office of Community Partnerships, please log onto:

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<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpstmpl.asp?url=/content/exec/partnerships/index.asp>

While the Office of Community Partnerships is a small office with just five full-time staff members (not including the County's Volunteer Center staff), the office is part of the County Executive's office and sits at the junction of the private, nonprofit, and public sectors with the responsibility for encouraging collaboration and building partnerships. As such, we have been able to attract Senior Fellows with great experience in law and finance and long service in the federal government. We have attracted a steady flow of superb interns and AmeriCorps VISTA workers from the United States and around the world. We seek to be a center of excellence and entrepreneurship within the County government. Adding an intern from the distinguished Princeton Internships in Civic Service would add prestige to our office and allow us to develop a particularly compelling public-private partnership that the director has not had the time to research and develop.

Internship Description

Describe in detail the work or project will do; please be as specific as possible. Please also explain the benefit that a student will obtain by interning with your organization.

Internship Description

Montgomery County, Maryland is the perfect place to develop the nation's model local government program of agricultural innovation and sustainability that promotes healthy eating. Decades ago, County leaders with great foresight set aside the upper one-third of the County as an agricultural and open space reserve. Sadly, this agricultural reserve is under-farmed and under great threat of development. At the same time, we know there is broad public demand for locally grown produce and that far too many of our residents go to sleep hungry each night. We also know that our supply of workers at our day labor centers far exceeds demand. Many of these workers have come to the United States from countries with agricultural economies. We know that obesity is a health hazard of substantial proportion for young and old. We know we eat way too much junk food. We know that our public school system should provide healthier meals and proper nutrition education for our students. We know that the nation's present system of food production is an environmental and energy disaster. And, lastly, we know that all of these things are connected and that a meaningful solution will require an extraordinary community collaboration.

The goal of the ten week internship will be to produce a plan for a Montgomery County Food Innovation Center as the centerpiece of a comprehensive County initiative to promote agricultural innovation and sustainability and to improve the eating habits of our residents. The project will begin with basic public policy research to find examples of best practices across a range of policy topics from nutrition to workforce development, from immigration to transportation, from education to economic development. That will be the easy part. The challenging and most enriching part of the project will be working with the myriad of public and private individuals and organizations with stakes in these issues and getting them to see the value of collaboration. Farmers and environmentalists, to take one obvious example of conflict that has stood in the way of progress, have had substantial differences over the decades. Can we, as one community leader has suggested, be creative enough to "use food as the fuel for economic development, promoting entrepreneurship and workforce training programs?"

The Food Innovation Center could be a pilot project located in the agricultural reserve. It likely would need to be large enough -- 25 or more acres -- to include multiple small farms. The Center could be organized by a nonprofit similar to the Montgomery County Nonprofit Village with multiple nonprofits with overlapping agendas to promote agriculture, to improve eating habits, and to provide job training. The benefits would be the same -- sharing of administrative overhead and basic equipment. As with the Nonprofit Village, the Center would bring people together to think creatively and synergistically. The Center could serve as an incubator for small farmers who might later move to larger farms within the

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reserve. It could serve as a model of sustainable agriculture. The start-up economics of the small farmers could benefit from the shared overhead and equipment as happens in the County's business incubators and Nonprofit Village. We could use existing loan funds and/or create a program of micro loans.

The Center could house related food production services from canning to catering. The job training potential with partners like Through the Kitchen Door could be substantial. The Food Innovation Center might need a satellite operation outside the reserve, likely in the down-County areas of Wheaton and Silver Spring, with a commercial kitchen capacity. In addition to supplying traditional farmers markets, we could use the County's economic development expertise to help expand markets for the locally grown produce – Giant, Safeway, Whole Foods, Honest Tea, Marriott, and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) could be important early partners. Some local restaurants might soon jump on the Buy Montgomery bandwagon. Manna and the County's other food banks could benefit. The job recruitment and training potential with partners like Casa de Maryland could be enormous. Many of the immigrants at our day labor centers come from countries with significant agricultural economies. Transportation to the Center in the agricultural reserve would be an important early challenge to resolve.

The Center would not stand alone. It would be the centerpiece of a broad public education campaign led by the County Executive and the MCPS Superintendent to encourage us to Buy Montgomery and Eat Healthy.

Working from the County Executive's Office of Community Partnerships, the intern will have ready access to the leadership of all the important potential partners from the governmental, private, and community sectors. The office has a demonstrated ability to convene all those with a stake in important issues.

Intern Qualifications

Describe any particular skills, background, or qualities you are seeking in an intern.

Intern Qualifications

The specific project proposed in this application will combine substantive public policy research with hands-on community development. A student looking for an internship that is either exclusively public policy research or exclusively hands-on community development will not be suitable for this project. The ten weeks will be spent researching best practices and working with a wide assortment of leaders from government, private sector for-profit organizations, and community nonprofit organizations to design a public-private partnership that will require the commitment of a network of boundary crossing entrepreneurs committed to working together to build the nation's model local government program of agricultural innovation and sustainability that promotes healthy eating. This project will require the intern to demonstrate the full range of traits needed by a twenty-first century leader – passion, persistence, hard work, creativity, and flexibility. The Office of Community Partnership seeks a skilled policy generalist with a passion for bringing people together to solve problems.

Bruce Adams (Class of 1970), the Director of the Office of Community Partnerships, will directly supervise the PICS intern on this project. Adams's four decade commitment to public service began at Princeton in 1969 with a seminar taught by Professor Eric Goldman. Goldman's American history seminar inspired Adams with stories demonstrating the ability of people to roll up their sleeves and improve the lives of our neighbors in need. Adams's service as an elected member of the Montgomery County Council and as a founder and leader of national, regional, and local community organizations has led to such awards as a 1998 Washingtonian of the Year and 1993 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Scull Metropolitan Public Service Award as the elected official who has contributed most significantly to the enhancement of intergovernmental cooperation in the Washington Metropolitan Region. Adams has served as a Senior Fellow at The James MacGregor Burns Academy of Leadership at the University of Maryland (1995-97), a Fellow

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of the Kennedy Institute of Politics at Harvard University (1979), an Associate of the Charles F. Kettering Foundation (1982-86), and as National Research Director for Common Cause (1977-82).

Adams has had the opportunity to reflect on the attributes of leadership throughout his career. Through a leadership program he developed and runs, he has mentored 15 to 20 high school students each year since 1987. Since 1997, the program has included a requirement that each student design and implement a 200 hour community service summer project. From his personal experience, Adams believes deeply in the value of the hands-on experience offered in programs like Princeton Interns in Civic Service and looks forward to playing the role of supervisor and mentor to a PICS student.

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