



2010 ENLACE New Mexico Legislative Internship



January 31 – February 5, 2010

ENLACE New Mexico Legislative Internship

Mission

The ENLACE Los Compañeros program believes that every student is a valuable member of our community and has the inherent capacity to reach his or her goals in life. Often, however, students from diverse economic and cultural backgrounds do not have the opportunity to attain their full potential. The mission of Los Compañeros is to promote both academic and personal success among underrepresented students in middle and high school through a culturally relevant mentoring program provided by university students.



Why should I apply for this internship?

The ENLACE New Mexico Legislative Internship program is designed to give students like you an extraordinary experience at the New Mexico State Capital. This week-long internship will unite nine students from throughout our Land of Enchantment to learn and experience state government in a way that classrooms cannot provide. Not only will you learn about government at a state level, but you will also learn how to make an impact in the decision making process. You will be assigned legislation your area of interest where you will have the opportunity to influence our state leaders. During your week-long internship experience you will have the opportunity to meet and shadow government officials in the executive, judicial and legislative branches.

Once selected for the internship program, you will work closely with the ENLACE Los Compañeros staff and mentors to provide a directed course of study to help you understand the work involved. The interaction with the ENLACE staff and mentors is a major component of the internship program.

History

In November, 2003, the Albuquerque ENLACE Los Compañeros program sponsored a banquet for local legislators who were supportive of its inception and goals. At this banquet the ENLACE Los Compañeros program invited Washington Middle School students to address those present. These students spoke to the legislators in attendance about how the ENLACE program has assisted them in their academic and personal lives.

Included in the many legislators present, Representative Janice Arnold-Jones of Albuquerque was present. She was so impressed with the student presentation that she extended a simple invitation to these students to do a week-long internship with her office. During the third week of January, 2004, these four Washington Middle School students held their first "real job" experience working at the New Mexico State Legislature.

After the week-long experience Representative Janice Arnold-Jones stated, “We, that are ENLACE, Washington Middle School, the students, their parents, and members of the legislature, were so pleased with this activity that we are working on providing eight students with a similar opportunity during the 2005 legislative session.”

Since the 2004 legislative session the ENLACE Legislative Internship has continued to grow; touching the lives of our students who share these experiences with their families, friends and communities. In 2007, ENLACE expanded its internship from not only the Central region but to the remaining four regions of ENLACE New Mexico expanding to a total of nine student participants.

Aregmi Aguilar recalls her experience: “During my senior year at AHS I was accepted as a 2008 legislative intern for the ENLACE Los Compañeros program. The internship was an educational experience; I had never been away from my home a full week! I felt empowered after meeting such influential people such as Governor Richardson and the first lady, Supreme Court Justice Patricio Serna, Secretary of State Mary Herrera, Lieutenant Governor and many others. One of the best experiences at the legislature was the opportunity to shadow a New Mexico State Senator.”



2008 Legislative Interns

Legislative Intern Itinerary

Prior to Legislative Experience: Students undergo an extensive orientation regarding their upcoming responsibilities, behavior while at the legislature, appropriate dress, how to address officials, etc. ENLACE will also work with the students’ school and their social studies department to ensure that these students have a clear understanding of the role that the state legislature plays in government. Furthermore, the ENLACE program will work with school administrators to obtain excused absences for student participants. The students’ teachers will provide their students with the schoolwork they will miss during the week. In many cases, teachers recognize the value of this experience and will simply ask these students to keep a journal of their experience in Santa Fe in the place of make-up work.

During the Internship:

- The legislative sponsors and their staff welcome students to the state capital
- Students will assist in the day-to-day office operations of their legislative sponsor(s)
- Students will engage in work for various committees (i.e. Appropriations, Education, Tax & Revenue, etc.)
- Appointments with: Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President Pro-Tempore of the State Senate, various legislators, Secretary of Education, and lobbyists
- Students will attend various committee hearings
- Students will serve as pages for the State House of Representatives

ENLACE Legislative Internship Eligibility Requirements

Students interested in participating in the ENLACE New Mexico Legislative Internship at the New Mexico State Legislature must meet the following requirements:

- Must have a cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.5
- Must not have lower than a "C" in any class
- Must not have received any disciplinary referrals during the spring semester
- Complete the attached Student Information Form
- Write a 500 word essay on selected topic
- Submit two letters of recommendation
- Must be willing to engage yourself in an extensive internship experience

Your packet must include:

- Student Information Form
- Essay with cover page
- Two letters of recommendation

Essay Guidelines

Part of the selection process for the ENLACE New Mexico Legislative Internship is to submit an essay of approximately 500 words or 2 pages. In your essay you should answer the following questions.

- 1) Why should you be chosen as one of the 2010 ENLACE New Mexico Legislative Interns?
- 2) How does this internship fit into your long-term goals?
- 3) How will your community benefit from this experience?

The essay must include the following in order to be considered:

- 1) Cover Page
- 2) Correct formatting (Typed, double spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman)

Nine students will be selected for the 2010 Legislative Internship; once the selection committee has chosen the legislative interns, all students will be informed of our decisions. The 2010 ENLACE Legislative Interns will be required to attend one (1) January training session prior to the legislative internship. The training date will be announced upon acceptance.



2010 ENLACE New Mexico Legislative Internship

Application

Student Name: _____

High School: _____ Grade: _____ GPA: _____

Mailing Address: _____
(Street, City, State, Zip Code)

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Parents' or Guardians' names: _____

Parents' Phone Number: () - _____

How did you learn about this program? _____

You may submit your packet one of two ways:

Hand deliver to physical address:

ENLACE Los Compañeros
Attention: Josh Corbin
1829 Sigma Chi Road B-5
Albuquerque NM 87131-0001

Mail to mailing address:

ENLACE Los Compañeros
Attention: Josh Corbin
1 University of New Mexico
MSC11 6300
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131-0001

If you have any questions throughout the application process please contact Josh Corbin or Cynthia Sánchez for clarification.

Josh Corbin
Education Specialist
Phone: 505-277-9632
Cellular: 505-710-7409
E-Mail: joshcorb@unm.edu

Cynthia Sánchez
Program Coordinator
Phone: 505-277-1845
Cellular: 505-459-6117
E-Mail: cynth1@unm.edu

**Complete application packets must be postmarked no later than
December 16, 2010!**