

Week of August 3, 2009



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[Senate Internship Opportunities Available](#)

Although the business of creating and debating bills is finished for the year, my Senate office in Jefferson City continues to help constituents with their legislative concerns and questions. Though the type of work that takes place in the Capitol during the legislative interim is different than the hustle and bustle of session, there is still plenty to do through the beginning of January, before the General Assembly reconvenes. Legislative interns play a large role in helping me and my office staff with all of the tasks that need to be done, whether in or out of session.

My office is now accepting applications for legislative interns for the fall semester. I encourage any Missouri college student interested in learning about the legislative process and public service to apply for an internship.

I'm looking for individuals who will complement my already hard-working team. Our interns must be able to integrate into our office and offer valuable judgment regarding issues that affect our constituents. Strong written and verbal communication skills are required, as everyone on our staff must be able to communicate effectively with constituents and other state departments. Specifically, interns are responsible for assisting with media-related tasks, handling constituent concerns, completing legislative research and performing various other duties that will help my office run more effectively for the citizens of the 31st Senatorial District. Our goal is to provide quality information about government at all levels, and our interns are an integral part of the "customer service" we offer.

Interns do not necessarily need to have a political science background. For students interested in some of the issues we debate in the Senate, such as economic development, military and veterans' affairs, education, budget, agriculture and health care, there is no

better way to learn the complexities of these subjects as they pertain to public policy. Legislative interns find that a semester in the Capitol can significantly broaden their knowledge of the most important issues affecting our state.

Typically, interns work during their fall or spring semester in exchange for credit hours through their universities. A full-time internship requires more than 30 hours a week, while a part-time internship requires fewer than 30 hours a week. If you or someone you know is interested in learning firsthand how your state government works, please apply online at www.senate.mo.gov/D31WebApps/intern.aspx. Résumés also may be mailed or faxed to my office. Ultimately, select interviews will be granted. Feel free to e-mail me from my web page at www.senate.mo.gov/pearce if you have any questions.

Senate interns are an invaluable part of our office operations, but the experience is a two-way street. While we depend on them as members of our staff, interns are able to learn about the legislative process and gain a profound level of knowledge about how our state laws are created. Internships can also lead to great employment opportunities. Regardless of the career path our interns eventually pursue, they will always be able to draw from their experience here.

Opportunities also exist for high school students interested in public service. Last session, a few students from the district took the opportunity to come to the Capitol for a day as a “job shadow” to see what I do on a daily basis. They were able to experience the legislative process in action and see what it is really like to be a state senator in Missouri. This is a great learning opportunity, and I encourage any student—high school or college—who is interested in job shadowing for a day at the Capitol to contact my office as well.

As always, please feel free to contact me or my staff with any questions or concerns at any time. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions and trying to answer any questions you may have. You can reach us by phone at 866-277-0882 (toll-free) or 573-751-2272, or by fax at 573-526-7381.

Senator David Pearce serves Bates, Cass, Johnson and Vernon counties in the 31st State Senatorial District.

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