Public Service Internship & Scholarship Program

Public Service Internships: CAPAL’s Public Service Internship Program places students within public sector organizations based in the Washington, DC area and throughout the United States. Interns will be exposed to various duties and will see their work benefit the communities around them. Intern duties may include policy or scientific research, project coordination and management, business, law, communications, and more. Those selected will be placed based on their interests and skills.

Mission: The Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership (CAPAL) seeks to empower Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) youth by increasing access to public service opportunities and building a strong AANHPI public service pipeline.

Vision: CAPAL envisions a future with equitable AANHPI representation throughout all levels of government and public service.

Public Service Scholarship: CAPAL’s Public Service Scholarship Program is intended to enable outstanding students serving in unpaid public service internships based in the Washington DC area. Scholars learn how to influence the Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community as well as their own local communities. Recipients of the scholarships are responsible for securing their own internship.

2022 Intern Spotlight

“This experience was everything I could have asked for. I loved being in a space with other AANHPIS, and sharing our experiences as a part of the community. The CAPAL programming was very helpful and I learned a lot.”

Manasi Reddy
2022 USDA APHIS Intern

Professional Development: Interns and scholars participate in a series of career coaching sessions facilitated by a trained development coach. In addition, students receive one-on-one mentoring and engage in speaker panels.

Washington Leadership Program: These weekly seminars focus on issues facing the AANHPI community and serve as an introduction to public service.

Community Action Projects: Scholars and interns collaborate to directly support important causes and established organizations by delivering concrete products for community partners.
Scholarships and internships are open to both undergraduate and graduate students of all areas of study. To apply or learn more about our programs visit https://www.capal.org/site/2018/09/04/scholarship-internship-program/. Our online application requires:

- Personal statement
- 1 page resume
- Letter of recommendation
- Academic transcript

Our 2022 Scholars and interns came from a variety of educational backgrounds, with 2 graduate and 27 undergraduate students pursuing studies in the humanities, finance, politics, and science. Through CAPAL, they were able to directly impact communities around them through public service internships while furthering their education.

**2022 Internship Sites**

- **Government:** USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service-Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Forest Service
- **Nonprofit:** Filipino Young Leaders Program, APIAVote-Michigan, National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association, Asian American Scholar Forum
- **Think Tank:** The Brookings Institution

**2022 Scholar and Intern Colleges**

1. California State University, Fresno
2. Pomona College
3. University of California, Los Angeles
4. Stanford University
5. University of Washington
6. University of North Texas
7. University of Houston
8. Southern Methodist University
9. Northwestern University
10. Michigan State University
11. Emory University
12. University of Richmond
13. Georgetown University
14. Swarthmore College
15. Franklin & Marshall College
16. Rutgers University
17. Cornell University
18. Smith College

CAPAL is actively seeking to recruit scholars and interns from across the country! This past year, our cohort attended universities from Seattle, Washington to Houston, Texas, to Northampton, Massachusetts.

Apply:

**2022 Scholar Spotlight**

Lena Pham
2022 Asian American LEAD Scholar

“This experience has allowed me to gain experience working closely with a non-profit organization aligned with my interest in AANHPI education. As a part of CAPAL’s 2022 cohort, I have been able to get to know scholars and interns from across the country.”