

**SUMMER 2002
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE INTERNSHIP SURVEY
SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

1. What did you enjoy the most and the least about the internship program?

Most:

Interaction with Governor and Staff; talking to and providing assistance to citizens; finding out how procedures in the office work, who plays the different roles, and interacting with different people; working on the Following the Leaders Grant and Computers in the Classroom Initiative; one-on-one sessions; attending activities outside of the office; meeting people and learning from them; press activities – scheduled and unscheduled; meeting other college students; networking; working with professionals; learning good work ethics and the ability to balance multiple tasks; exposure to several profound individuals that did not let their authority interfere with their pleasant personalities.

Least:

Pay; unprofessional interaction with Governor's staff is frustrating and frightening that these type of people represent the Governor; racism; working the receptionist desk (3); filling out time sheets; racism and favoritism; small stipend; performing masculine tasks; not enough interaction with constituents;

2. Describe your overall experience?

Productive; in-depth look at the inner workings of state government; informative and educational; learning experience; learned the role the Governor's staff has in making the Governor successful; valuable experience in both the opportunities I've had to learn and the events I've witnessed; it's been a very humbling experience to know that my work here may impacted Mississippians positively in some small way; grateful for the experience; pleasurable and refreshing to be back in an office atmosphere; gained valuable business administration skills; developed wonderful relationships; sum up the experience by saying "real world"; unforgettable; given duties that made me feel useful and important; excellent; bitter sweet; the things that I learned that I liked, I will incorporate into my future and the things that I did not like, I will not; a blessing; I now have a "real world" view – did not know that so many people have hidden agendas – I now am no longer naïve to the games that are played; enhanced my interpersonal skills; learned to have faith in myself;

3. On a scale of 1-10 how would you rate the internship, 10 being the highest?

10; 5; 5 (only because I had an opportunity to meet the Governor); 9; 10; 10; 8; 9; 9; 5; 8; 6; 9; **the average was 8**

4. What did you learn during your tenure that you feel will benefit you the most as you continue your education or enter the workforce?

I learned that some people scheme and plot against others to get ahead in life. Moreover, I have observed that the people with morals combined with skills seem to be happier peoples. Therefore, I will always work diligently to be a person who morals along with skills; The process that a communication department goes through to deliver its product to the public; learned the set up and experienced the everyday workload that comes with a job; how government operates; exposure to the State of Mississippi – I know longer have preconceived ideas about government in the Governor's office; patience is a virtue

and a really important quality to possess, especially in the public arena; I learned how decisions are made in State Government and how MS politics works; improved my writing skills; I am going to teach history – you can't talk about history without talking about government and now I've seen the inner workings of how one branch of our state government works; the organizational skills will benefit me for the rest of my life; the importance of a staff getting along because that is the key to getting things done effectively and timely; being a part of a staff and functioning in a role as opposed to performing a few isolated tasks; in a diverse atmosphere you must work together as a team; I learned how to maintain consistency and persistence without being a pest; punctuality; people should not allow a stressful situation to interfere with getting the job done; don't stay in a corrupt environment where you despise going to work everyday; if you work as an innovative group of people instead of competing with one another there would be progress;

5. Was your interaction with the Governor's staff a positive experience?

Explain.

Somewhat- there are a lot of staff personalities and some of the staff was really positive and helpful, but others you would speak to and they would not even respond to you. These certain staff members would "look down their noses at you", as if you were less than them and not a person; Great- the staff always answered questions and explained the minor things; O.K.- depending on the attitude of that person; no – my interaction with the Governor's staff was not positive because I observed that most of the Governor's staff has racist characteristics and discriminates; yes – the staff was supportive and encouraging; for the most part positive – a few minor exceptions; on a few rare occasions felt as if I was being patronized for being young and relatively unimportant; everyone was friendly and eager to explain things that I did not understand; yes – the staff seemed appreciative and respectful of the work the interns did; made me feel comfortable; yes – it's important to have a diverse culture; There is no way I can effectively elaborate on my experience with the Governor's staff without writing at least 5 typed pages. The director of my division was inconsistent in her behavior and deliberately made certain that I received little field experience. It is equally important to mention that directors of other divisions throughout the Governor's office took me under their wings and I am grateful for that; I think Governor Musgrove is doing a wonderful job and his team is an attribute to that success;

6. What would you recommend to improve the internship program for future interns?

Nothing; pay; ensure that discrimination does not take place; explain to Governor's staff that internship should be a learning experience for everyone – for example some staff thought their interns should not have phone/receptionist duties and why did only a select few get to go to functions such as the Neshoba County Fair and receptions at the mansion; pay; rotate interns through various divisions; shorten the program weeks; have a day set aside for a retreat for a program summary; guys should have the receptionist duty also; pay; more interaction with other agencies; incorporate brown bag lunches where top executives can speak to the interns; go to a political event