Dreamer Newsletter

Dreamers Fulfill Opportunities to Complete Summer Internships at CU Boulder

This summer CU Boulder and I Have A Dream, a program dedicated to helping low income youth reach higher education, partnered once again to give a select group of “Dreamers” ages 15-21 the opportunity to complete a 6-8 week internship on the CU Boulder campus.

The departments that hosted the Dreamers are the Office of Diversity Equity Community and Engagement (ODECE), the Pre-Collegiate Development Program, the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, International & National Voluntary Service Training (INVST), Health Promotion, Public Achievement and CU Conferences Services.

The internships gave Dreamers a feel for what a job environment is like and has helped them build a strong work ethic. Dreamers were employees and were treated as such. They had similar responsibilities to the rest of the staff such as arriving on time, meeting deadlines and learning to solve problems in a proactive way.

Through this opportunity, Dreamers learned many skills. They ran reading camps, organized equipment, worked with large amounts of data, managed inventory, learned to place large food orders and experienced networking and working with new people. The variety of things they accomplished not only added to their resumes, but also will be put to use in future jobs.

Additionally, Dreamers participated in Wednesday Workshops. These weekly workshops not only were an opportunity for the Dreamers to check in with the staff about how their internship was going, but taught Dreamers useful life skills that will help them succeed in their internships and future jobs. The workshops touched base on various topics such as public speaking and presentation practice. They also met guest speakers that shared their stories as well as useful knowledge regarding college.

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Written by Llvia Macias, Dreamer Intern at ODECE

Dreamer Interns 2015
Alexis Ramirez - Colorado Shakespeare Festival
Alexis is interning at The Colorado Shakespeare Festival. Here, he managed a reading camp for 28 kids, helped supervise and check students in and out of camp, assisted teachers in classrooms with theatre games and spent time at the theatre office. In addition, Alexis had the very important task of helping translate a bilingual production of *The Taming of the Shrew* to Spanish. During his internship, he learned many Microsoft Word and Excel skills that will be useful for future employment.

Katia Morquecho - Colorado Shakespeare Festival
Katia is a summer intern at The Colorado Shakespeare Festival and is a rising junior at Boulder High School. Katia was very enthusiastic when talking about her experiences at her internship, “What surprised me most was the kids. They’re looking up to me, but I ended up looking up to them! They’re reading really advanced literature and I’m learning with them. These kids are amazing.” She loved running the reading camps and having the kids run up and hug her. Katia said that she had the privilege to work at such a great place, was also gaining skills such as public speaking, getting exposed to a different side of the community, and learning to work with kids ages 7-18 years old.

Jason Segovia - Health Promotion
Jason is the summer intern at Health Promotion. He said that his internship is parallel with his career interest of becoming a doctor because it widened his knowledge about health issues, laws and policies. When Jason, a junior at New Vista High School, began his internship he was trained to educate others, learn about emergency plans and organize equipment. He liked it so much that he took pleasure in waking up early every morning because that meant he was going to work! “It’s a stepping stone toward my future; I get to help people at such a young age and being part of a program that has so much to offer is priceless.”

Fatima Rodrigues - INVST
“The people I have met are willing to help me even after my internship is over,” Fatima, the intern at INVST, said. She felt that learning how to format emails, building skills and creating lasting relationships are the most important things she is taking with her when she starts her freshman year of college this fall at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Fatima commented that it was really important to learn email etiquette because that is something she will use frequently. She spent her time at INVST creating invoices to document activities, filing student papers and scanning.

Lluvia Macias - ODECE
Lluvia, a rising senior at Fairview High School, is interning at the Office of Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement. She feels that she has had a wonderful experience that has opened doors, windows and worlds of opportunities for a brighter future. “Their warm hellos and welcomes made me more sure than ever that this summer was going to have a lot in store for me.” She worked with Microsoft Publisher and improved her formatting skills on the newsletter. “This internship has assured my goal of becoming a college graduate; it seems a lot more reachable now. I am thankful for this opportunity that I would have not otherwise been able to realize if it weren’t for the IHAD Internship program,” Lluvia stated.
**Lucy Canales - PCDP**

“It’s satisfying. To be an active Latina in our community along with being a role model to my siblings, and have them say, ‘Wow! She has a job at CU’. It feels amazing!” Lucy responded when asked about why her summer internship was important to her. Lucy is a junior at Boulder High School, interning at the Pre-Collegiate Developmental Program at CU Boulder. She expanded her skills in working with spreadsheets, and learned that responsibility is key to any job. Lucy said that she is grateful her first job experience to be in such a professional, welcoming environment and not the typical fast food job for a teen.

**Maria Martinez - Conference Services**

Maria is interning at Conference Services. She spoke about how much she learned about a professional work environment as well as what she learned from her co-workers about their college experiences. She has learned to place large food orders and work with inventory. She also mentioned she was thankful that this internship offered so much for her to grow and ease her way into having a job. “I was surprised how flexible they were with my schedule. They were very understanding and easy to talk to if I couldn’t go in that day.” Maria explained that this internship will definitely help her as she pursues college the following fall at Front Range Community College.

**Hosts**

- **Heidi Schmidt**
  Colorado Shakespeare Festival

- **Leisha Conners Bauer**
  Health Promotion

- **Nola Salisbury**
  Office of Diversity Equity and Community Engagement

- **Daniel Martinez**
  Pre-Collegiate Development Program

- **Melissa Ruben**
  International and National Voluntary Service Training

- **Jesse Lujano**
  Conference Services

**IHAD Staff**

- **Daniel Sikkink-Johnson**
  Daniel Sikkink-Johnson runs the college and career department. He works with hosts to provide quality internships for students throughout the summer. Daniel emphasized that this is one of the most important programs that IHAD offers because there’s a lot to learn through work that can’t be taught in class. “Because of our Internship Boot Camp and Interview Prep our students are more prepared and professional than most college students.” Daniel said.

- **Arielle Del Rosario**
  Arielle Del Rosario is a college and career coordinator for IHAD. Arielle mentioned that this experience helps Dreamers figure out what they do or don’t want to do in their future. “I feel that internships are a great place for dreamers to learn what skills they need in order to be a strong candidate for the workforce.” She mentioned students that pursued internships after college because of this program, proving that the summer internship will have a lasting impact on Dreamers.
The “I Have A Dream” Foundation of Boulder County is dedicated to helping low-income youth achieve a brighter future through a long-term, comprehensive educational and cultural enrichment program. The ultimate goal of “I Have A Dream” is to provide the youth it serves with the necessary support and trusting relationships they need to close the achievement gap with their more affluent peers and complete high school prepared for higher education and a fulfilling career.

The CU-Boulder "I Have A Dream Committee" was established to support the I Have Dream Foundation of Boulder County in assisting and promoting life-long learning, successful education and self-sufficiency for low-income youth and their families. One of the committee’s most successful and popular activities is the University of Colorado’s Summer Internship Program. The summer Dreamer internship program works with University departments to offer six-week internships to “Dreamers”, ages 15 to 21.

Christopher Pacheco
Christopher Pacheco is the director of the office of Pre-College Outreach and Engagement and a former board member of Boulder’s IHAD. He supervises four outreach programs that work with low-income, first generation students: Summit County, Roaring Fork, Lake County and I Have a Dream Program. The Pre-College Outreach programs are highly needed because they help students with the college process throughout the school year, and educate the students’ parents as well. “The percentage of students that end up going to college after the programs is 98%, and students that go through the program share what they learned with their extended family and friends. That’s important because there are many more students that need the service than we are able to serve.”

The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Community Engagement works to achieve the University’s commitment to inclusive excellence and uphold it as a priority across the campus. The office fosters CU-Boulder’s vision for a diverse campus climate and works with students, faculty, and staff to implement the campus diversity plan.

Wednesday Workshops
6/8 “Campus Tour” with Chris Pacheco
6/15 “College Student Panel” with Dreamer Alumni
6/22 “Living Your Values” with Jesus Sanchez
7/13 “Public Speaking” with Daniel Sikkink-Johnson
7/20 “Presentation Practice” with Daniel Sikkink-Johnson
7/27 “Dreamer Celebration” at Museum of Natural History

ODECE Staff

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