

Sakthiram S. Kumar

Cleveland Council on World Affairs

Wellman Hill Grant 2023

During the Summer of 2023, I worked at the Cleveland Council on World Affairs (CCWA) as their Academic Programs intern. The Cleveland Council on World Affairs is a nonpartisan, non-profit organization that seeks to promote international engagement and global understanding in the greater Cleveland area.

As a CWRU student studying Political Science, I had a general understanding of some of the CCWA's work. I worked with representatives from the CCWA several times as a CWRU Model United Nations team member. As an Academic Programs intern with the CCWA, I collaborated with CCWA representatives to help teach students about critical international issues by creating guides, presentations, and interactive activities to introduce students to these topics. Some of the issues I covered included the global refugee crisis, U.S.-China Relations, and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.

Each of these issues is challenging to present to students, but I was grateful for the opportunity to help students stay informed about these topics. Additionally, I had the chance to aid the CCWA in setting up their Centennial Civic Forum, an event meant to share the importance of global dialogue and highlight Cleveland's place in the world. Working to educate students on what is happening in the world today is an essential public service as it allows them to make more informed decisions as future voters.

Unfortunately, as a CWRU student, I have noticed that many of my classmates have grown apathetic to politics and international affairs. Many don't even bother to keep themselves informed about the issues they care about. Throughout my time at Case, I have wanted to help

combat this apathy in any way I could. As an Academic Programs intern, I worked to present these topics to inform students of their importance while also encouraging them to seek out information about any topic they might be interested in. Thanks to this internship, I gained insight into what it takes to make students interested in subjects they might not have any background in.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Wellman Hill Grant selection committee, the Hill family, and the CWRU Political Science department for allowing me to have the opportunity to promote civic engagement and awareness of important issues. I believe this is one of the most important public services one can practice. I am grateful for this experience and plan to continue promoting civic engagement in any way I can.