

In the summer of 2014, the Wellman Hill grant allowed me to intern with Policy-Bridge. Policy-Bridge is a 501c (3) non-partisan public policy think tank that reports on urban policy issues and educates Northeast Ohio residents on the impact of policy on minority communities. Although Policy-Bridge did not have an established internship they allowed me to join their team and had me work closely alongside the director.

The organization was founded by three community leaders and today is run by a director and a board composed of distinguished Cleveland businesspersons, lawyers, directors, and professors who contribute expert opinions on issues to keep dialogue rich and effective.

One of my main tasks was to revise and edit upcoming publications for the organization. Through the application of knowledge I learned from the organization's board members as well as my own research on the policy issues, I helped insure quality material. Topics incorporated into the reports ranged from education inequality to the impact of hip hop on youth in minority communities.

As an intern, I was also privileged to accompany the director to meetings around town on collaborations and finances. I was able to sit in on meetings with corporate executives and listen to conversations regarding policy issues and possible support. After each meeting, I was expected to give an in depth analysis of the interaction to help with future efforts to engage other organizations.

My favorite task for the summer was my opportunity to meet with each board member in their office and learn about their career paths and get advice on my own career endeavors. I toured big corporations downtown as well as smaller nonprofit organizations and soaked in tons of knowledge that I will use in choosing my next steps and ultimately selecting a career.

In addition to my responsibilities I also had regular seminar style lessons on policy under the director of Policy Bridge who often serves as a professor at Cleveland State University. We studied policy basics necessary for navigating careers in public policy. Although informal, I was given the opportunity to reference parts of those policy lessons during my daily routine as well as for meetings.

With such a dynamic role as an intern with Policy-Bridge, I truly fell in love with policy research and learned the many details to producing policy reports. I was also able to learn so much from and network with the many prestigious leaders I was surrounded by all summer. I am truly grateful to Ms. Elizabeth Hill and the Wellman Hill Grant Committee for awarding me the opportunity to work with such a meaningful organization. Receiving the grant was a major relief to me and my parents.