

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Kellie Hutchinson



Graduation Year: 2018

Semester of Internship: Summer 2017

Major: Public Policy

Hometown: Greensburg, PA

Minor: None

Hobbies: I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling, working out, and crafting.

Campus Activities: None

- **Internship (company/your title):**

Westmoreland County Commissioners Office at the Court House in Greensburg/Intern

- **What were your duties?**

I helped out with what needed done around the office. Such as answering phones, helping set up agenda meetings. I also got to sit in on a bunch of meetings and experience how the county functions on a day to day basis.

- **What did you enjoy most about your internship?**

My favorite part about my internship was the opportunity to go around to different departments. I was able to ask questions and get feedback from each department. This gave me a chance to get an idea of their duties in the courthouse and how their specific office works. I met a lot of incredible people over the course of the summer. Everyone always answered any questions that I had and made sure I got the most out of my internship. I also loved the atmosphere in the office. Everyone was friendly and got along which I think is most important when working because you have to love to come to work every day.

- **What was the most difficult aspect of the internship?**

The most difficult aspect that I had during my internship would have to be some of the meetings I sat in on. Some of the topics that were being discussed I had heard about so I had some background knowledge on. But there were others that I either couldn't relate to or haven't heard much about so it was tough. However after any meeting my site supervisor would sit down and we would go over what went on in the meeting and my thoughts/how it relates to my major. He would make sure I fully understood what I was doing on and why. Which was beneficial because of the knowledge I gained and took away from this internship when it comes to real life county issues.

- **How did your experience at UPG and in the Public Policy department prepare you for your internship?**

I was prepared for my internship because over the course of my spring semester a lot of my classes discussed current topics that were going on and how the government functions during those times. A lot of what went on during the meetings I sat in on were current issues.

- **How has your internship prepared you for a career?**

Having an internship helped me get ready for my career and helped me better understand what my future can be like. Being able to experience different departments was key to making my internship so beneficial. This was extremely valuable because it helps me narrow down those departments that I don't necessarily like and help me gain better knowledge about myself and what I can see myself doing in the future.

- **What recommendations do you have for other students about doing an internship?**

I would encourage all students to do an internship! I enjoyed doing mine over the summer because I could manage my time better and not have to stress about my other classes. It's an eye opening experience that will help you become more prepared for your future. Having an internship in your desired field will set you above the rest when looking for your future job!