A Message from the President & CEO

Dear Friends:

For the last 15 years, the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) Summer Internship Program has provided opportunities to students with disabilities to work in high-level internships in Washington, DC. When we started the program in 2002 with a generous contribution from the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation, we set out to develop the next generation of leaders with disabilities. AAPD witnessed the physical, economic, and attitudinal barriers that students with disabilities often faced in accessing internships in Washington, DC, despite the fact that they were just as qualified, or more qualified, than their non-disabled peers. By providing interns with the resources they need, we are sending them on the path to employment and providing employers with a pipeline of talented jobseekers with disabilities.

From serving as the Receptionist to the President of the United States at The White House, to founding non-profits, to leading disability inclusion efforts at top corporations, graduates of the Program have established amazing careers spanning all sectors and interests.

We are excited to offer this annual report on the 2017 AAPD Summer Internship Program for your review. As we revisit 2017, we are so grateful to our partners, employers, mentors, volunteers, and the community for their commitment to the AAPD Summer Internship Program. On behalf of the AAPD Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your support. We look forward to working with you and to continued success in 2018 and beyond!

Sincerely,

Helena Berger
President & CEO
American Association of People with Disabilities
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AAPD Mission

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) is a **convener, connecter, and catalyst** for change, increasing the political and economic power of people with disabilities.

As a national cross-disability rights organization, AAPD advocates for full civil rights for the over 56 million Americans with disabilities by promoting equal opportunity, economic power, independent living, and political participation.
About the AAPD Summer Internship Program

The AAPD Summer Internship Program provides the opportunity for students with disabilities to gain hands-on professional experience to help advance their career goals. Through the Summer Internship Program, AAPD seeks to give a class of students with disabilities the skills, resources, and networks they need in order to not only become employed, but to be employed in meaningful and high-level positions. Our Summer Internship Program engages students and recent graduates with disabilities from all across the United States. Because we cover the costs of travel and housing, in addition to providing a living stipend, we are able to recruit a diverse class of interns that may not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in a program like ours. For many of these young people, participating in AAPD’s Summer Internship Program is their first exposure to the broader disability community, which empowers them to be self-advocates and sets them on a path to employment.

15 years of providing successful internship experiences to students with disabilities

296 interns have furthered their careers through the AAPD Summer Internship Program

600+ colleges and universities in AAPD’s network

The premier leadership development opportunity for students with disabilities

In addition to placing interns on Capitol Hill, in government agencies, national non-profit organizations, or the private sector, AAPD also matches each intern with a mentor connected to the disability community. The AAPD Summer Internship Program is unique and effective because we offer a comprehensive experience that goes beyond the normal 9-5 intern work week. Outside of the internship hours, AAPD educates our interns on the history of the disability rights movement and the challenges our community still faces today. The interns also have numerous opportunities to participate in social and professional networking events.
Professional Development and Networking

One of the hallmarks of the AAPD Summer Internship Program are the numerous opportunities that interns have to engage in professional development and networking. These range from intimate conversations with icons of the disability rights movement to panels with Washington, DC’s top public policy professionals. In addition to the professional development aspect of the curriculum, events are also focused on strengthening disability identity while encouraging and strengthening disability pride.

Photo – On June 5th, AAPD interns engaged in an intimate conversation with disability rights leader, Judy Heumann

Photo – AAPD Interns network with attendees at the AAPD ADA Celebration held on July 26, 2017 on the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Photo – Andy Imparato (AUCD), Samantha Crane (ASAN), and Patrick Cokley (Anthem) discuss current disability policy issues with the AAPD Interns
Preparing the Next Generation

Below is a sample of the workshops and guest speakers organized during Orientation Week.

- **Diversity and Intersectionality**, Vilissa Thompson, Founder & CEO, Ramp Up Your Voice!
- **How to be a Disability Policy Change Agent**, Bobby Silverstein, Principal, Powers, Pyles Sutter & Verville PC and former staff director and chief counsel for the Subcommittee on Disability Policy of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources
- **Know Your Rights**, Kelly Buckland, Executive Director, National Council on Independent Living
- **Careers in Public Policy Panel**, Dexter Brooks, Associate Director, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Will Ris, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, American Airlines (retired)
- **Social Media and Advocacy**, Concepts Communications
- **Financial Inclusion and Shared Prosperity**, Michael Morris, Executive Director, National Disability Institute
- **Lunch & Panel with AAPD Summer Internship Program Alumni**, Dana Fink, ’08, Leah Katz-Hernandez ’09, Meredith Raymond ’13, Alex Van Hook ‘13
- **History of the Disability Rights Movement**, Patrick Cokley, Disability Policy Engagement Manager, Anthem
- **Accommodations and Disability Disclosure in the Workplace**, Derek Shields, Co-Chair, National Disability Mentoring Coalition
- **Workforce Recruitment Program and Schedule A Hiring Initiative Briefing**, Frances Vhay and Lauren Karas, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), Department of Labor
Disability Power & Pride

For many AAPD interns, the AAPD Summer Internship Program was their first time in a group of youth with all types of disabilities, their first time in a room with youth that identified positively with their status as people with disabilities, and their first time experiencing real-time educational and professional success from disclosing their own disability.
2017 Interns

Nermina Aly
*Interned with Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)*

Nermina Aly is a driven communications studies major at DePaul University in Chicago and ranks in the top 1% of her graduating class. In her free time, she enjoys creative writing, singing, and meditating. Having lived in three countries throughout her childhood, she is continuing her traveling by studying abroad in Japan for her spring term at DePaul.

Annika Ariel
*Interned with Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA)*

Annika Ariel is an incoming junior at Amherst College in western Massachusetts. She is double majoring in English and Political Science. Annika is a prosecuting attorney on the Amherst College Mock Trial team, and is a project coordinator with Amherst’s chapter of the Roosevelt Institute. She is also a member of the diversity student advisory board, and Annika is also actively involved with the national organization Alexander Hamilton Scholars, and was recently published in the letters section of *The New York Times*. This past summer, Annika worked with the Town of Amherst to update the Town’s Affirmative Action Plan, develop an economic Community Profile for businesses and investors, and develop summaries and statistics on many aspects of life in the Town. She also developed Amherst’s first-ever comprehensive disability programming for first-year students. Annika aspires to pursue a career in either law or finance. In her free time, she enjoys sitting in coffee shops and writing.
Tina Banerjee

Interned with the Department of Homeland Security

Tina Banerjee is a junior at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York where she is majoring in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology. Her interest in Criminal Justice began during her sophomore year in high school where she had the opportunity to learn about the law, police work, and other agencies within the government. She took an interest in and is currently active in advocacy work with people with disabilities in the criminal ‘legal’ system, a partnership with local law enforcement agencies to educate and improve community relations, and the fight for the equal communication access in the prison system since her first year in college. Tina aspires to pursue a career in the law-enforcement field and to be involved with the investigation unit and advocate for social-justice for people with disabilities. When she is not busy, she loves to volunteer in her community, spending time with her family and friends, going to Barnes & Noble to read books with coffee, and make the best of every day with exciting adventures!

Lauren Berglund

Interned with The Arc

Lauren Berglund is a junior at Iowa State University majoring in Child, Adult, and Family Services. She was born with a genetic condition causing legal blindness. Raised in rural Iowa, Lauren and her family spent much of their time advocating for blindness-related services. As a result, Lauren has developed a strong desire to advocate for herself and others with disabilities. Her passions include: equal access to education, disability related services, and transition from high school to higher education. Lauren discovered her passion for working with transition-aged youth with disabilities while serving as a co-counselor at the Iowa Youth Leadership Forum. In her free time, Lauren enjoys baking, playing with her guide dog, and blogging.
April Caputi
Interned with the National Archives and Records Administration

April Caputi is a recent Bachelor of Cinema & Media Arts (CMA) graduate from Biola University with an emphasis in Production. She developed an interest in casting when she became aware that actors with disabilities are often misrepresented in the media. One of her most rewarding moments occurred when she was the casting director for her senior thesis film and cast a diverse group of actors, including a deaf individual. With her many years of experience in the arts, April would like to bridge the gap between the entertainment industry and the disability community. She aspires to become an advocate and liaison for actors with disabilities and is a strong supporter of equal access in film and theatre for audiences with disabilities.

Ariel Carlin
Interned with the Administration for Community Living

Ariel Carlin, a recent graduate of Syracuse University, earned her dual Bachelor’s degree in Selected Studies in Education and Sociology with a minor in Disability Studies. She is a scholar who loves to coach and educate. At Syracuse, she completed numerous student teaching placements in both urban and rural settings as well as coached soccer for a local youth recreational team. As part of the disability community, she is also an advocate for fellow individuals with disabilities and is passionate about the equity and inclusion of all students in the classroom. Her summer internship with the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition (CCDC) gave her further insights of disability culture and the Colorado State government. Ariel is currently at a cross road, looking to pursue a law or master’s degree to enhance her leadership skills and better advocate for the disability community through education. As a true Bostonian, you can find Ariel cheering on all New England sports teams!
Lauren Galloway
*Interned with Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY)*

Lauren Galloway is a rising second-year law student at Syracuse University College of Law (SU) and a self-proclaimed disability rights advocate. As a native of Illinois, Lauren earned her undergraduate degree in English from Bradley University, and it was there, on the university’s nationally-ranked public speaking team, that she really began to hone her advocacy skills. As a woman with Cerebral Palsy, she found an empowering outlet in researching, writing, and performing speeches for national audiences about policy as well as interpersonal issues facing people with disabilities. After undergrad, she decided to brave Syracuse’s infamous winters to turn her passion for advocacy into a career with the help of the first of its kind Disability Law and Policy Program at SU law. Along with being a diligent social justice advocate, Lauren unashamedly admits to being an adrenaline junky who has yet to meet a roller coaster she didn’t like!

Jason Harris
*Interned with the National Disability Rights Network*

Jason Harris is on the autism spectrum. He attended both an inclusive and disability-focused high school. After high school, he attended the College of Mount St. Joseph where he learned about advocacy in his class Disability, Culture, and Equity. He graduated with a Liberal Arts Degree and a Minor in Philosophy from the College of Mount St. Joseph with Honors in December 2013. He is the founder of Jason’s Connection, an on-line community connecting over 200,000 people of diverse abilities to information, resources, services, human stories, and each other. Its community can recommend, rate, and review services as well as request specialized searches for services and resources. Jason has spoken to groups around the United States about invisible disabilities and contributed articles and interviews with people of diverse abilities from around the world in the Jason’s Connections online magazine. He is currently in graduate school at Syracuse University in the School of Cultural Foundations of Education pursuing a specialty in Disability Studies. Jason was recently interviewed for Jason’s Connection and his contribution to the Disability Community in *The Washington Post*.
Claire Houston

Interned with JBS International

Claire Houston is a junior at Mount Holyoke College, in South Hadley, Massachusetts where she is a self-designed major in Disability Studies, with a minor in Computer Science. She is also pursuing a certificate in Non-Profit Organizations. Claire is an advocate for disability awareness on campus, and is a Peer Mentor for the AccessAbility department, guiding new disabled students as they make the transition from high school to college. Claire loves robotics, and works with a local Girl Scout robotics team as a coach. She hopes to combine her love of disability and technology, and develop and design better systems in the future.

Erika Hudson

Interned with the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Democratic Staff

Erika was born and raised in Halmstad, Sweden and moved to the United States when she was thirteen years old. Erika is now a proud Hoosier of Indiana University studying Management and International Studies with a concentration in human rights. During her time at Indiana University, Erika has been heavily involved with Residential Life and Disability Services for Students. She served as a Resident Assistant for three years and had the opportunity to work with individuals with different backgrounds from all over the world, developing her passion for travel and social justice. Over the past year, Erika has also served as the office intern for Disability Services for Students, which allowed Erika to be an advocate for other students with disabilities as well as for herself. Erika is the fourth generation in her family with a unique form of Macular degeneration known as the Babcock eye. Upon graduation, Erika hopes to travel the world and serve as an advocate to ensure everyone’s right to a life of dignity and respect.
Madlyn Jennings
*Interned with the National Education Association*

Madlyn Jennings is a Sociology major at Truman State University in Kirkville, Missouri. She will be graduating in May 2017 with cum laude honors. She hopes to pursue a career in disability advocacy focusing on increasing access to higher education. She learned the importance of serving others as a result of her leadership position at the Baptist Student Union. Her interest in disability advocacy was sparked while she was researching the portrayal of people with disabilities in the media during the summer after her sophomore year of college. The opportunities she was presented through her internship at Special Olympics DC during the summer of 2016, especially participating in the NCIL annual conference, helped her gain valuable insight and connections in the disability community. Madlyn aspires to lead an independent, healthy life and help other people in the disability community accomplish the same goal. When she is not busy helping others, she is running at the gym and watching movies.

Emily Kovalesky
*Interned with Senator Bob Casey (D-PA)*

Emily Kovalesky is from Collegeville, PA and is currently a junior at Allegheny College where she is majoring Global Health Studies and minoring in Biology. Prior to declaring her major, she wanted to work in the healthcare field, as a physicians’ assistant, and has worked as a Certified Nurse’s Aide (CAN) the past three years in both retirement communities and children’s homes. Though she loves her work as a CNA, she now aspires to work in public policy and health advocacy after facing her own challenges and seeing the disparities children face when dealing with their health challenges. In her free time, she enjoys relaxing with friends and being active in school activities. Some of these include fundraising for St. Jude and volunteering at a rescue animal shelter and farm.
Ann Wai-Yee Kwong
*Interned with the Institute for Educational Leadership*

Ann Wai-Yee Kwong is a Ph.D. student in the education program at UC Santa Barbara. In 2015, she received her B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Education from UC Berkeley as a Gates Millennium scholar. Prior to her attendance at UC Santa Barbara, she interned as an education technician in Washington, DC disaggregating student suicidality data and analyzing its negative impact on both student and school excellence. In 2014, Ann testified at a U.S. Senate hearing to advocate for herself and others, informing policymakers of the attitudinal and societal barriers, which limit the potential of people with disabilities. Her research includes: curriculum development for transition age youth with disabilities, self-determination, and cultural implications of professional and family partnerships. In addition, Ann co-founded Survive or Thrive, an experience-based support group and mentoring program by and for individuals with disabilities, where she designs and facilitates workshops and mentors youth and their families.

Max Soh
*Interned with the Association of University Centers on Disabilities*

Max Soh is a recent graduate from Biola University where he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.A. in Sociology. While a student at Biola, Max was involved with a number of leadership positions that centered around his passion for social justice and equity, including advocating on behalf of various minority groups on his campus through frequent meetings with university administration as his university’s Student Government Diversity Liaison. Max has also been involved with disability rights advocacy, including co-leading a student-led initiative during his undergraduate studies aiming to bring awareness to disability rights and teaching computer skills to blind and low-vision individuals at the Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped located in the nation-state of Singapore – where Max spent most of his life. Currently, Max is attending graduate school at Columbia University in New York City.
Chakir’ Underdown
Interned with the National Disability Rights Network

Chakir’ Underdown received her Bachelor’s in Spanish and International studies from The Ohio State University. She continued her educational career by earning an M.A. in Latin American Studies and an M.S. in Marketing Communications. During her academic career, Chakir’ has traveled to Mexico, London, and Brazil, to complete cultural and language immersion study abroad programs. She remains dedicated to her passion for helping others in her community by serving as a peer mentor, tutor, and a volunteer. Chakir’ has worked on volunteer projects for The Ohio State University, the Legal Aid Society of Columbus, and the City of Dublin, OH. Currently, Chakir’ is completing her law degree at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law with a focus on corporate law. She has experience in housing and landlord tenant law, working as a law clerk for the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio. Chakir’ is the Ohio Marketing Director for Save A Warrior, a non-profit organization focused on healing veterans and first responders suffering from mental trauma. She enjoys spending her time with her family, cooking, reading, and staying fit in the gym.
2017 Placements

Administration for Community Living

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Department of Homeland Security

House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Democratic Staff

Institute for Educational Leadership

JBS International

National Archives and Records Administration
2017 Mentors

Adam Absoseda, Deloitte
Zack Bastian, Verizon
Susan Diegelman, AT&T
Kristin Duquette, FEMA
Merrill Friedman, Anthem
Judy Heumann, Ford Foundation
Zeenia Irani, World Food Program USA
Beth Kolbe, Sidley Austin
Arisa Nakamori, US State Department
Cynthia Overton, American Institutes for Research
Jessica Queener, Institute for Educational Leadership
Curtis Richards, Institute for Educational Leadership
Marcie Roth, Portlight Strategies
Pete Salavantis, Mitsubishi Electric
Nellie Wild, Aimed Alliance
2017 Applications

**135 applications received**
15 internship openings
Included resume, essay questions, letters of reference

**36 states represented**
AK, AL, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, FL, GA, IL, IN, IO, KY, LA, MA, MD, MI, MN, MS, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA

**53% identifying as a person of color**

**45 different disabilities represented**

**14% identifying as LGBTQ+**
2017 Sponsors

The AAPD Summer Internship Program is made possible through generous financial support from our partners. AAPD would like to thank the Aid Association for the Blind of the District of Columbia, the Arconic Foundation, the AT&T Foundation, Google, and the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation for their investment in the 2017 program.

Aid Association for the Blind of the District of Columbia

Arconic Foundation

AT&T

Google

Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation
Alumni Reflections

Rochelle Honey-Arcement
Mobile Crisis Outreach Program Coordinator, Crisis Center of Johnson County
Interned with JBS International
Class of 2012

What was the most memorable part of your experience with the Summer Internship Program?
“Being part of a community of people with disabilities. That was a new experience for me. Getting to know other people with experiences like mine made me feel like I was part of something, something that I had never had the opportunity to be a part of. I really got to learn about the disability movement in a way that I never would have been able to do just from class.”

Kelli Lee
IT Analyst, Cisco Systems
Interned with the US Department of Agriculture
Class of 2013

What was the most memorable part of your experience with the Summer Internship Program?
“Getting to meet other interns and share my DC experiences with them. I still keep in touch with a few of my friends that I interned with.”

Meredith Nicholson
Masters Student, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Interned with Senator (then Congresswoman) Tammy Baldwin
Class of 2010

How did your participation in the Summer Internship Program help prepare you to enter the workforce?
“I am still in touch with my amazing mentor, Day Al-Mohamed, as well as many others who have provided valuable advice and guidance in terms of mentorship, networking, etc. It enriched my resume and was a great learning experience re: workforce experience, including how to interact with others.”
**Maddy Ruvolo**
San Francisco Fellow, City & County of San Francisco
Interned with the Office of Congressman Alan Grayson
Class of 2013

How did your participation in the Summer Internship Program help prepare you to enter the workforce?
“Participating in the Summer Internship Program increased my confidence in my own abilities and gave me a deep connection to the disability community. I bought my first suit, went to my first networking happy hour, and exchanged business cards for the first time during the course of the intern program.”

**Emily Seelenfreund**
Fellowship Attorney, Disability Rights Advocates
Interned with Walmart Federal Government Relations
Class of 2011

How did your participation in the Summer Internship Program help prepare you to enter the workforce?
“The summer internship program was the first time I really considered disability advocacy as a career path. I knew I wanted to be an attorney, but meeting other attorneys with disabilities convinced me of the importance of self-advocacy and shaped my career decisions.”

*Photo - 2016 intern, Kate Chasar, meets with Senator Bob Casey (D-PA)*
Rose Sloan
Policy Advisor, Office of Disability Employment Policy, US Department of Labor
Interned with the National Disability Rights Network
Class of 2013

What was the most memorable part of your experience with the Summer Internship Program?
“The friendships of the fellow interns; a new view on disability—no need to be ashamed—be proud! Also higher expectation of all people with disabilities—learning the struggles and stereotypes people with disabilities face (to be clear, I understood the stereotypes and low expectations I faced, but everyone has different experiences).”

Photo - Interns from the class of 2016 meet with former Congressman Tony Coelho.
Alumni Spotlight

**Keri Gray** works as the Director of the Rising Leaders Initiatives at the US Business Leadership Network. In her work, she manages the Rising Leaders Mentoring Program and the Rising Leadership Academy for approximately 200 college students and recent graduates with disabilities who are interested in working in the private sector. Keri interned with Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) in 2011. She was elected to the AAPD Board of Directors in 2017.

**Elizabeth A. Kolbe** is an associate at Sidley Austin, LLP in the Healthcare practice of the Washington, DC office. She focuses her practice on healthcare regulatory and compliance matters, including strategic counseling in connection with public policy proposals and implementation issues. Beth completed her internship with AAPD in 2006.

**Ola Ojewumi** is an activist, journalist, and a community organizer based in Washington, DC. She founded two nonprofits, Sacred Hearts Children’s Transplant Foundation and Project ASCEND. These organizations provide college scholarships to low-income students, funding for women’s education programs, support for global mentorship groups and literacy programs, and distributes teddy bears and books to children awaiting organ transplants across the United States. She was the recipient of the 2017 AAPD Paul G. Hearne Leadership Award. Ola interned at The White House through the AAPD Summer Internship Program in 2011.
Alumni on the Move

Shia Byers  
Special Education Aide, District of Columbia Public Schools  
*Class of 2015*

Karin Hitselberger  
United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) National Public Education Associate  
*Class of 2013*

Sarah Kinneer  
Special Education Teacher, GNETS Program  
*Class of 2003*

Ross Kloeber  
Summer Associate, Sidley Austin  
*Class of 2013*

Megan E. Marshall  
Disability Services Advisor, Lawrence Technological University – Office of Disability Services  
*Class of 2013*

Chris Nestrud  
State IT Security Specialist – Arkansas Department of Information Systems  
*Class of 2003*

Mitch Paschen  
System Administrator, Mellon Capital Management  
*Class of 2009*

Yair Silbermintz  
Senior Developer, Samples.com  
*Class of 2010*

Alumni Testimonials

“My experience in the AAPD internship program helped me to see that I am not alone in my experience of disability. I had not been introduced to the disability rights community and would not have gone on to be in the career position I am in now had I not had that experience.”  
-Rochelle Honey-Arcement, *Class of 2012*

“Being an AAPD intern gave me the experience of a lifetime by learning about disability culture and getting first-hand experience in an office setting. I had an amazing time meeting people.”  
-Kelli Lee, *Class of 2013*

“I look back on my time as a 2013 AAPD Intern as one of the most memorable experiences ever. Spending the summer with a group of diverse individuals with disabilities, someone like me, it can’t get much more awesome than that!”  
-Megan E. Marshall, *Class of 2013*

“The AAPD Summer Intern Program was a life changing experience. I had the opportunity to intern in a congressional office full of brilliant, dedicated people and I met some of my closest friends and mentors through the program.”  
-Maddy Ruvolo, *Class of 2013*
2017 Intern Testimonials

“You don’t know how much this internship program will change you for the better until you actually experience it. I’ve had the best summer of my life thanks to AAPD. I have developed into a student who has had the experiences needed to graduate knowing that I now have skills that can be extremely beneficial for my professional development.

Nermina Aly

“My experience as an AAPD summer intern was life changing, I learned about myself and how my passions could transfer into a career, made lifelong friends, and met some history making advocates. But most of all I gained a huge desire to further my advocacy and passion for disability rights beyond education and look further at how disability affects all aspects of life.”

Lauren Berglund

“This internship opened my eyes as to how federal agencies provide a model standard to accommodate employee with disabilities in the workforce. Everyone was very accepting and understanding of me and I felt like my contributions were tangible and valuable to the team. Living in Washington D.C. was an incredible experience!”

April Caputi

“AAPD’s internship program encouraged me to nourish, grow, and celebrate my disability identity, and I will forever be grateful for this organization’s willingness to invest in me. The opportunity for total immersion in the vibrant, present, and proud disability culture of D.C. immeasurably enriched my life and informed my disability experience. I left D.C. in August with the full intent to return in the not so distant future and that impression is entirely due to this program, the friends who became family, and the unbelievably positive experience I had! Thanks AAPD!”

Lauren Galloway

“Because of the existence of AAPD, as a participant in the summer internship program, I had an amazing experience that I will remember for a lifetime. I gained more knowledge about advocacy and the pride within the culture of disability. Most of all, I liked having the community of people who supported each other and enjoyed life together. I developed as a person by having the opportunity to be around people, agencies, and organizations who had an impact on disability rights and the well-being of us all.”

Jason Harris

“I will forever be grateful to AAPD. My summer internship experience, was one for the books! The people I met, the experiences I had and the memories I hold, I will forever cherish.”

Erika Hudson
“Participating in the AAPD Summer Internship Program was a once in a lifetime opportunity. I was able to learn about the severity and scope of issues the disability community faces as well as get to know some of my disabled peers. I will forever be grateful for this opportunity.”

Madlyn Jennings

“The AAPD summer internship was an amazing experience. I learned so much about myself, the disability community, and my future goals. If I learned anything that will stay with me forever, it’s that you have to bring your whole self to the table with every opportunity presented at you and if they don’t want your whole self, then that’s not the place for you. Learning that has helped me grow into a stronger and more confident person, all thanks to AAPD.”

Emily Kovalesky

“Participating in the AAPD summer internship program has been a life-changing professional development experience. I had the opportunity to connect with other successful professionals, attend Congressional briefings, conduct meaningful projects working at the Institute for Educational Leadership, and most importantly continue to explore and develop my disability and Asian American identities. The connections and knowledge I gained will continue to positively impact my future and catalyze my passion to continue my work both in and out of the disability community.”

Ann Wai-Yee Kwong

“When you’re able to work and live in environments that support your identity and encourage your growth, you become an asset. You belong, you’re home. That’s the AAPD experience.”

Chakir’ Underdown
Your continued support helps build the next generation of leaders in the disability community

Through your investment, more students with disabilities will have access to the opportunities they need to take their careers to the next level. Contributions are directly invested in the program to ensure that the Washington, DC internship experience is financially and physically accessible to all students with disabilities. Here’s what your donation provides:

**Roundtrip travel**
AAPD provides transportation to and from Washington, DC for each intern.

**Fully accessible housing**
Finding affordable, accessible housing in Washington, DC can be extremely difficult. AAPD provides housing for each intern with any disability-related accommodations, located near AAPD’s office and public transportation.

**Living stipend**
To help cover various day-to-day costs, AAPD provides a stipend to each intern.

**Personal and professional development opportunities**
AAPD covers the registration costs for interns to attend events like the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) Annual Conference.

If you are interested in becoming a partner of the AAPD Summer Internship Program, please contact Zach Baldwin, Director of Outreach, at zbaldwin@aapd.com or 202-521-4310 for more information.
Thank you for your support!

THE POWER OF AAPD