

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT SPRINGFIELD

Office of Graduate Intern Programs  
Brookens Library, Room 475  
Center for State Policy and Leadership  
One University Plaza, MS BRK 475  
Springfield, Illinois 62703-5407

To: Members of the Illinois General Assembly  
From: Rance Carpenter, Director  
Office of Graduate Intern Programs  
Re: Internship Opportunities at the University of Illinois Springfield  
Date: September 26, 2013

I have enclosed information regarding the *Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program (ILSIP)* and the *Graduate Public Service Internship Program (GPSI)*. Both programs have been ranked as two of the premier governmental internship programs in Illinois and have received national recognition for identifying and developing government leaders. Please help us continue this tradition of excellence by sharing this information with interested students and/or constituents in your district.

### ***Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program (ILSIP)***

For over 50 years, the Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program (ILSIP) has provided 24 unique internships for keenly interested, deeply motivated and talented individuals to work within state government. With the capitol as both workplace and classroom, ILSIP interns earn eight (8) graduate credits in political science from the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS).

Funded by the Illinois General Assembly through the Legislative Research Unit and administered by the University of Illinois Springfield, ILSIP grew out of a desire to provide individuals with diverse experience and backgrounds insight into the legislative process. The program offers interns the opportunity to work as a professional legislative staff member working with either the partisan leadership of the Illinois General Assembly or the Legislative Research Unit. Interns also participate in a mandatory academic seminar conducted by UIS faculty.

The ILSIP experience is intended to broaden the perspective of those planning academic, business or government careers so that they will carry into their chosen fields an understanding of the legislative process and how it relates to their work. In addition to providing interns exposure to the legislative process, the program provides legislative leaders with research and other professional staff assistance.

ILSIP interns work full-time for 10.5 months for a monthly stipend of \$2,026, along with a tuition waiver for eight graduate credit hours and the option for student health insurance paid as a benefit of the program. The program accepts applicants from all academic backgrounds who have completed either an undergraduate or advanced degree. Applicants who are pursuing an undergraduate degree must have been awarded the degree prior to starting the internship.

All application materials are due in the ILSIP office by March 1, 2014. Final selections/placements are announced late March to mid-April. Internships begin August 16, 2014. For more information, interested students may call the UIS Institute for Legal, Legislative and Policy Studies at 217-206-6579 or visit the ILSIP website at <http://ilsip.uis.edu>.



## ***Graduate Public Service Internship Program (GPSI)***

For over 39 years, the Graduate Public Service Internship Program (GPSI) has provided a unique internship experience that gives graduate students the opportunity to simultaneously begin a career in Illinois government while earning a master's degree from UIS. After completing program requirements, many interns continue working in state government while others gain employment at other levels of government or pursue opportunities in the private sector. As a means to help interns integrate academic knowledge and professional work experience, all GPSI interns must complete a one credit hour mandatory GPSI seminar during the first semester in the program.

GPSI interns serve a 21-month paid internship at a local or state governmental agency while working on their graduate degree at UIS. Benefits the interns receive include:

- A maximum of 40 credit hours tuition waiver paid by the placement agency;
- An annual \$300 allowance for professional development opportunities or resources;
- A monthly stipend of \$1,175 a month during the academic year when working 20 hours a week; and
- A monthly stipend of \$2,350 a month during the summer when working 37.5 hours per week.

Like the ILSIP program, GPSI accepts applicants from all academic programs who have completed either an undergraduate or advanced degree. Applicants who are pursuing an undergraduate degree must have been awarded the degree prior to starting the internship. For first round consideration, the GPSI file must be complete by March 15, 2014. Interviews will be held in April 2014, for internships that commence August 16, 2014.

For additional information, interested students may call the UIS Office of Graduate Intern Programs at 217-206-6158 or visit the GPSI website at <http://gpsi.uis.edu>.

If you have questions or need additional information, I welcome the opportunity to talk with you. Please contact me by telephone at 217-206-6155 or via e-mail at [rcarp2@uis.edu](mailto:rcarp2@uis.edu).

Thank you in advance for sharing this information with interested constituents.