



SB0101 - University of Baltimore - Schaefer Center for Public Policy – Funding

NextGen Leaders for Public Service

Dear Maryland Legislators:

I am writing in support of SB0101 – University of Baltimore – Schaefer Center for Public Policy – Funding. This funding will support the continuation and expansion of the NextGen Leaders for Public Service program, as well as other training for public service leaders in Maryland.

The Howard County Housing Commission hosted two NextGen interns in the fall of 2023. They provided us with high quality work, new ideas, and a fresh outlook. In turn, we provided them with real-world experience, an understanding of an office environment, and an education in the world of affordable housing, which included relevance to their fields of study. The program lived up to all that an internship should be. We would gladly work with interns in the future.

By way of background, the NextGen Leaders for Public Service program provides career preparation and paid internships for students interested in careers in public service in Maryland. The opportunity to work in Maryland government and /or nonprofit organizations while completing a degree is essential for many students as they are learning how to apply academic concepts and deepening their understanding of work requirements and public service in Maryland. The internship experience is also beneficial to the Maryland “host site”. Students are contributing members of the host site team for a 15-week term, working on average more than 240 hours. Students also have the option to continue for a full-year internship if the host site requests.

NextGen Leaders for Public Service internships are designed to match a student’s career goals and current skills to the needs and opportunities in Maryland government and nonprofit organizations. Students are serving state and local government as interns in finance, IT, research, policy, and communications just to name a few career areas.

Sincerely,

Peter Engel
Executive Director
Howard County Housing Commission