

CALIFORNIA SENATE FELLOWS 2012 – 2013



SACRAMENTO
STATE
Leadership Begins Here

CALIFORNIA SENATE FELLOWS

Established in 1973, the California Senate Fellows program is one of the oldest and most distinguished service learning programs in the country. The program grew out of a desire to provide people with insight into the legislative process through experiential learning. It offers college graduates a paid, full-time legislative staff position in the State Capitol for 11 months. The program is jointly sponsored by the California State Senate and the Center for California Studies at California State University, Sacramento.

The **Center for California Studies** is a public education, public service and applied research unit of California State University, Sacramento devoted to promoting the understanding of California's history, cultures and public policies. Founded in 1984, and located on the capital campus of the California State University, the Center possesses a unique trust: to bring the resources of the state's largest university system to the service of public discourse, civic education and state government.



2010-11 Senate Fellows on a field trip to the CHP Academy.

The Work of a Senate Fellow

Fellows are assigned to the offices of a senator or policy committee and work as part of the public policy staff team in the Capitol. Responsibilities for fellows assigned to the offices of senators include helping develop legislative proposals, researching and analyzing bills, responding to constituent inquiries, and writing press releases and speeches among other things. Fellows assigned to policy committees specialize and develop expertise with respect to the subject-matter jurisdiction of the committee. Additional committee staff responsibilities include research assignments and assisting the chairperson with committee-related legislation moving through the Legislature. Many of the California Senate Fellows participants continue their post-fellowship careers as staff to the California Senate.

Experience and Insight

The California Senate Fellows program is a highly competitive, graduate level, full-time paid fellowship that introduces individuals to the legislative process by providing research and other professional staff assistance to the Senate. Fellows are placed with top-ranking policy makers, providing firsthand experience in the development and advancement of public policy and legislation. Fellows participate in weekly seminars and earn six units of graduate credit for the academic portion of the program. The experience gained through the Senate Fellows Program allows fellows the opportunity to pursue very successful careers in academia, public service and the private sector.

Senate Fellows often continue working in the public policy arena after completing the program. Many hold senior staff positions with the Legislature, and others hold high-level positions in the executive branch. Some former fellows now serve as elected officials in local government or as members of the Legislature or the United States Congress. Alumni move back and forth between the public and private sectors during the course of their careers and are found in virtually every profession and vocation.



2010-11 Senate Fellows discussing policy issues at length.

The Academic Component

Fellows are registered as Sacramento State graduate students during the Spring 2013 semester and earn six units of graduate credit paid for by the program. Fellows attend weekly seminars held at the Capitol and are required to do oral presentations and written assignments. The seminars provide an academic perspective to complement the experience gained through the office placements.

Compensation & Benefits

The California State University provides the fellows with a unique position of having dual status as a CSU employee and graduate student. This combined status offers a unique combination of benefits.

- Monthly stipend of \$1,972
- Health, dental and vision benefits
- Paid university enrollment and student fees
- Student loan deferment
- Six graduate units
- Student and staff campus privileges

"The California Senate Fellowship has provided a strong network and solid foundation to a year in public service. It has allowed each fellow to learn the practical and political dynamics of the inner workings of state government in ways beyond our expectations."



Ronald Berdugo
2010-11 Senate Fellow

"What an illuminating experience and immense privilege it has been to be exposed to the inner-workings of the legislature as full-time legislative staff. Fellows get to negotiate provisions of proposed legislation, meet with concerned citizens about bills appearing before policy committees, and operate in a mutually respectful environment."



Sarah Erlich
2010-11 Senate Fellow

"The Senate Fellows program has been such a formative learning experience because it ties academic discussion about pressing issues facing California to actual, useful experience in the impactful world of state policymaking."



Julius Chen
2010-11 Senate Fellow

Selection Criteria

The Selection Committee, comprised of two University and seven Senate representatives, selects the most qualified applicants for the program based on a written application and subsequent interview.

Committee members look for:

- Genuine interest in California politics and public policy
- Effective written and oral communication skills
- Interpersonal skills and bipartisan collaboration
- Characteristics for collaborative learning and problem-solving including flexibility, initiative, adaptability and maturity
- Academic and professional achievement
- Interest in and knowledge of the California Legislative Branch
- Demonstrated track record of civic engagement

How to Apply

Applicants must submit by February 22, 2012:

- **Completed on-line version of the application**
Complete your application online at www.csus.edu/calst/senate
- **College transcripts**
Submit a transcript of record from each college or university attended.
- **Letters of recommendation**
Submit three letters of recommendation. At least two of the letters must be from persons who are not present members or employees of the California Legislature. It is strongly suggested that at least one of the three recommendations be provided by a faculty member familiar with your work.
- **Personal statement**
Submit a personal statement, not to exceed three pages. A policy statement is not required to apply for the Senate Fellowship program.

2010-11 SENATE FELLOWS

Crystal Araujo

Hayward, CA
UCLA
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Padilla

Ronald Berdugo

La Puente, CA
CSU Fullerton
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Hernandez

Cornelious Burke

Los Angeles, CA
Loyola Marymount University
B.A. Political Science/Urban
Studies
USC
M.P.A. Urban Planning
Placement: Senator de León

Max Carter-Oberstone

San Francisco, CA
Georgetown University
A.B. Finance & French
Placement: Senator DeSaulnier

Julius Chen

Rowland Heights, CA
UC Berkeley
B.A. Economics
Placement: Senator Huff

Brandy DeOrnellas

Oakley, CA
UC Berkeley
B.A. Political Science/ Social
Welfare
Placement: Senator Evans

Sarah Elrich

Los Angeles, CA
UC Berkeley
B.A. Sociology
Placement: Senator Hancock

Gabrielle Jackson

Sacramento, CA
William Jessup University
B.A. Public Policy
Placement: Senator Blakeslee

Lan Le

Sacramento, CA
Stanford University
B.A. Human Biology
Placement: Senator Wolk

William Leiter

Danville, CA
Harvard University
B.A. Social Studies
Placement: Senator Simitian

Samantha Lui

Los Angeles, CA
UCLA
B.A. International Development
Studies
Placement: Governance &
Finance Committee

Evelyn Molina

Dublin, CA
University of San Francisco
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Harmon

Tyler Munzing

Orange, CA
UCLA
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Fuller

Christopher Odneal

Fairfield, CA
UC Berkeley
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Cannella

Naomi Padron

El Monte, CA
University of La Verne
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Rubio

Victoria Rivera

Compton, CA
UCLA
B.A. Afro-American Studies
Placement: Senator Price

Julia Smekalina

St. Petersburg, Russia
UC Davis
B.A. Political Science/
Philosophy
Placement: Senator Wyland

Jennifer Teasdale

Orangevale, CA
CSU Sacramento
B.A. Government
Placement: Senator La Malfa



2010–11 Senate Fellows

Who Can Apply?

Mid-career and recent graduates of all academic disciplines, backgrounds and levels of experience are encouraged to apply.

All applicants must:

- Be at least 20 years of age by September 1, 2012.
- Have a bachelor's degree by September 1, 2012, and a demonstrated interest in state government and public policy.
- Be authorized to work in the United States for the duration of the program.

Important Dates

February 22, 2012.....	Applications due
April 25-27, 2012.....	Sacramento interviews*
May 3-4, 2012.....	Los Angeles interviews*
May 2012.....	Candidates notified
October 2012.....	Fellowship begins
September 2013.....	Fellowship ends

* All interviews must be conducted in person.

For more information, contact:

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