

# **The Office of Service-Learning Civic Leaders Internship Program 2005-2006 Annual Report**

Julia Parcell, Internship Coordinator  
Anne-Marie Foley, Ph.D., Director

## **Program Goals and Objectives:**

*\*Create opportunities* for undergraduates to participate in state government internships for academic credit and for volunteer purposes.

*\*Provide a sound academic foundation* for state leadership internships. Interns will be placed in positions that are related to their majors, reflect their future graduate school or professional interests, and respect students as learners.

*\* Encourage a sense of civic responsibility and a commitment to civic leadership* in undergraduates across disciplines. By exposing students to civic leadership in positive and well-supported learning environments, we hope to encourage a commitment to leadership and civic engagement as a lifelong enterprise.

## **Program Description:**

The Civic Leaders Internship Program supports undergraduate students who serve the State of Missouri through internship opportunities in publicly-funded offices. Examples of internship sites include the Offices of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General, State Representatives and Senators, and State Departments such as Mental Health and Economic Development.

Students involved with CLIP may choose to intern part-time (8 to 16 hours per week) or full-time (30 to 40 hours per week). To do so, they receive internship credit hours either through the Office of Service-Learning or their academic department. Full-time interns receive a stipend to support expenses they incur during the internship.

## **Field Coordination:**

The MU Civic Leaders Internship Program provides support for and advocates for the needs of both students and placement sites. Before placing a student at a site, the internship coordinator discusses the duties that an intern will carry out, the number of days and hours the intern will work, and any special job training or qualifications. Additionally, site visits and evaluations throughout the semester ensure that the internship continues to be a positive learning experience for the student.

### Internship Placements and Student Degree Programs:

CLIP received over 120 requests for interns for the winter semester; we placed 101 undergraduates from degree programs across campus this academic year (See **Chart 1**). Students from the Colleges of Business, Education, and Arts and Science, the Schools of Journalism and Social Work, and CAFNR enrolled in CLIP. Nine students were full-time interns; 17% of our interns were sophomores, 43% were juniors, and 40% were seniors; 45% were male and 55% were female (See **Appendix A**). The average GPA for CLIP students at the start of their internship was 3.462.

### Volunteers and Departmental Credit:

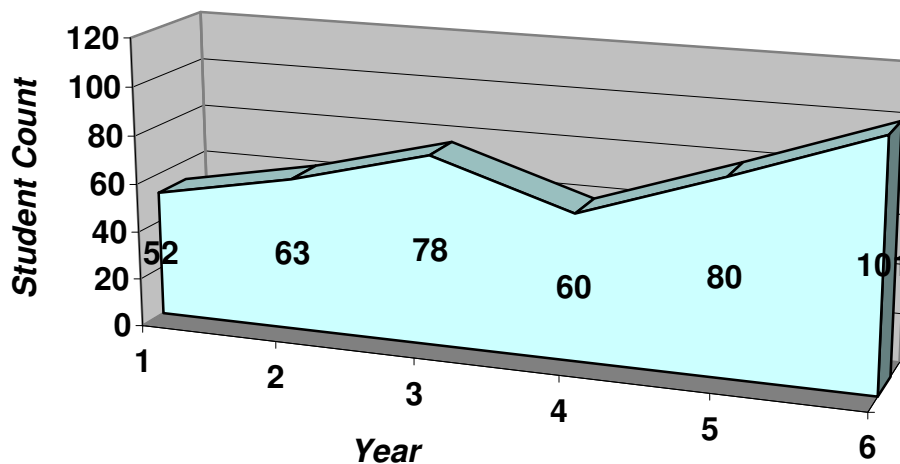
We helped facilitate the placement of seventeen volunteers. In addition, CLIP placed three students who earned credit through their own academic departments (See **Appendix A**). We worked closely with CAFNR faculty to identify interested students and find appropriate internship sites for them. Other programs such as the School of Social Work and Sinclair School of Nursing have used the CLIP model to enhance their curriculum development.

### Federal Government Internships:

Eight students earned academic credit through CLIP in federal government offices. CLIP worked with the School of Journalism to place four of these students in the Washington D.C. area in journalism related sites. Of the remaining four, three were placed in federal legislative offices in Washington D.C. and one was placed in a federal office in Missouri.

**Chart 1.**

**CLIP Enrollment**



**Internship Program Assessment:**

Ninety-three percent of site supervisors rated CLIP interns’ overall performance as *Excellent* or *Good* (See **Figure 1.**) and 85% of students rated their overall experience with the internship program as *Very Good* or *Excellent* (See **Figure 2.**).

**Post-Internship Opportunities:**

CLIP interns utilized their internship experience to gain additional opportunities. Over twenty CLIP interns were offered post-internship positions including positions for paid employment, additional internships, and campaign work. Specifically, interns have received offers from two public relations firms, the Columbia Police Department, the Missouri Senate Democratic Campaign Committee, the Missouri House Republican Committee, and within various offices in the Missouri Legislature.

**Figure 1.**

**Site Final Evaluation of Intern’s Performance:**

<b><u>Performance Area</u></b>	<b><u>Excellent</u></b>	<b><u>Good</u></b>	<b><u>Average</u></b>	<b><u>Needs Help</u></b>	<b><u>NA</u></b>
Work Product	82 %	15 %	2 %	---	---
Dependability	84 %	11%	4 %	---	---
Adaptability	80 %	15 %	2 %	---	---
Ability to get along	82 %	11 %	5 %	---	---
Attitude	80 %	15 %	4 %	---	---
Initiative	76 %	16 %	4 %	2%	---
Responsibility	78 %	16 %	2 %	2 %	---
Overall rate of per	84 %	9 %	4 %	---	---

*The category “N/A” represents those sites that were not able to evaluate a student’s performance in a particular area.*