Weekly Spotlight: Community Groundwork

Information below taken from Community Groundwork’s website.

Community Groundwork is an organization helping community college students become engaged, effective, and equal citizens through careers in public service. Co-founders Michael Ceraso and Elizabeth Emera established Community Groundwork to give two-year college students the same tools to pursue careers in politics and public service available to students at four-year institutions.

Co-founder and Executive Director Michael Ceraso's long political career started at a community college. After completing his A.A. degree from Citrus Community College, he went to work on Barack Obama's first presidential campaign in New Mexico. He discovered his skill-sets and professional networks were behind his campaign peers who completed political internships and training programs at four-year schools unavailable to two-year students.

Recognizing that community college students might lack the practical know-how or confidence to participate in a sector that feels resigned to university and Ivy League students, Michael's goal is to demystify the process and instill confidence in two-year students whose careers in government advocacy political campaigns are within reach.
To fulfill that mission, Community Groundwork programs provide stipends to supplement lost wages from missed shifts and cover expenses like transportation and food to remove as many practical impediments as possible for those students with the passion, curiosity, and work ethic to participate.

Community Groundwork training and mentorship programs offer access to accomplished political professionals who volunteer their time to teach courses on everything from networking and resume-writing to digital storytelling and data analytics. After these quarterly programs, students leverage job shadowing and placement opportunities with elected officials, local races, and city agencies near each partner college.

Volunteers Needed

**Ontario for Agriculture Organizing Interns needed!**

Many individuals and community-led organizations in the Inland Empire have formed a coalition fighting against the destruction of over 200 acres of prime farmland in Ontario to make way for more polluting warehouses. The coalition includes the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability, the Southern California Agricultural Land Foundation, American Farmland Trust, and the League of United Latin American Citizens, among others. They need to collect 10,000 signatures by March 31st for a referendum in the city of Ontario to prevent farmland destruction. If interested in helping out collecting signatures and community organizing, email ontario4ag@gmail.com.

Interested in TPP’s work? We are looking for two more student interns! If interested, contact aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu. Work-study preferred.

Looking for a summer internship? TPP has compiled a list of volunteer and internship opportunities relating to government, public policy, and civic action. See some internships highlighted below and be sure to check out our website for more information!

**A Collaborative Study of Social/Political Psychology of Online Communities** | University of Michigan

**Deadline** | March 31st, 2022

**Location** | Remote

**Legal Assistant Intern** | Orange County Public Defender's Office

**Deadline** | April 28th, 2022
**Public Policy Internship** | Tesla

**Deadline** | May 2nd, 2022

**Location** | Washington, D.C., Palo Alto, CA, Remote

**Policy & Legislative Affairs Intern** | Orange County Board of Supervisors

**Deadline** | May 5th, 2022

**Location** | Santa Ana, CA

**Associate Social Justice & Activism Podcaster** | The Creative Process

**Deadline** | May 27th, 2022

**Location** | Los Angeles, CA

**Development Intern – Grant Writing** | Mother and Child Education Center

**Deadline** | September 1st, 2022

**Location** | Portland, OR

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**Upcoming Events**

**Legal Observer Training with the National Lawyers Guild of Los Angeles**

March 22 @ 5:30 pm  
Virtual Event

“NLG-LA works to ensure the legal and practical access to demonstrations in Southern California by regularly providing legal observers at demonstrations to observe and document potentially unlawful or unjustified interference with demonstrators’ rights by law enforcement.” Join the CEC and National Lawyers Guild of LA for a training to be certified as a legal observer.

For more information, contact immediate_action@pitzer.edu.

Interested in collaborating with TPP? Contact TPP Program Assistant aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu or CEC Managing Director
tricia_morgan@pitzer.edu. Check our website for additional information and updates.

Connect with Us

Want to hear more from The People’s Pitzer? Join our email list here. Want to get involved in the Community Engagement Center in other ways? Fill out our volunteer interest form here.

Follow our Instagram and Facebook (@ThePeoplesPitzer) for updates, and be sure to check out our website to see all our resources. Keep an eye out for future newsletters as well!

Further questions? Comments? Concerns? For more information about The People’s Pitzer, as well as how to get involved in our team, contact Alaina Neuburger at aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu.