



The West Virginia Legislature's

Judith A. Herndon Fellowship Program

Application Packet - 2009 Session

JUDITH A. HERNDON LEGISLATIVE FELLOWS PROGRAM

Goals of the Program

The Judith A. Herndon Legislative Fellows Program is an internship sponsored by the West Virginia Legislature. The primary goal of the Fellows Program is to instruct selected fulltime undergraduates from institutions of higher learning in West Virginia in the theory and operation of legislatures and legislative bodies in their multidimensional aspects and roles. While the general theoretical background encompasses the American legislative process in general, practical application focuses on the process as exemplified by the West Virginia Legislature.

The Fellows Program was established as a pilot project by the Joint Committee on Government and Finance in May 1980. It was established as a permanent legislative program by House Concurrent Resolution No. 3.5 in April 1981 . In accordance with the guidelines established by the Joint Committee on Government and Finance and implemented by the Program Committee, the Fellows develop a wide range of skills and knowledge regarding the legislative process. Although the program of individual Fellows will vary, basically the student is introduced to and develops an understanding of the politics of legislation, legislative research and research materials, bill drafting, the role and function of legislative committees, constitutional restraints on the legislature legislative rules, constituent services, and executive/legislative liaison and relationships. The Fellows also develop a broad understanding of the budgetary process with emphasis upon the legislative role in budget enactment as well as the oversight functions pertaining to the operation of the executive branch.

Program Administration

Coordination of the Fellows Program is vested by the Joint Committee on Government and Finance in the Legislative Intern Committee. The Program Director is responsible for academic guidance and supervision and for the administration of the program. He is nominated by the Intern Committee and is appointed by the President and the Speaker. He serves at the pleasure of the Intern Committee.

Student Selection

To be eligible for the Fellows Program a student must have completed a minimum of 60 undergraduate semester hours or the equivalent with an academic grade point average sufficient to admit him or her to the degree program of his or her choice. At the time of making application the student must be enrolled at the home institution on a full-time basis and must be in good academic standing. Students on academic or social probation are ineligible to apply for Herndon Fellowships. Similarly, no student may serve as a Fellow if he or she is subsequently placed on academic or social probation for the period which would include the Fellowship. In addition, each applicant is required to have had at least one college course in political science unless in the judgment of the Program Committee the student's record displays an active and sustained interest in public affairs or in the political process.

Each four year college and university in the State, both public and private, has been requested to participate in the Fellows Program. All public institutions and all but one of the private institutions participate in the Program. Each institution selects a faculty liaison person who is responsible for local program publicity, the receiving of applications, and making nominations to be forwarded to the Program Committee.

From the applications received from the participating institutions the Intern Committee selects the most outstanding applicants for an interview. The Fellows are selected from this group of interviewees.

Assignment of Fellows

All Legislators who are not serving their first term in office are sent a request form on which they could express an interest in supervising a Fellow. From the list of Legislators expressing an interest in the supervision of a Fellow, assignments are made by the Intern Committee.

At the conclusion of the Legislative Session, Fellows are assigned to various Legislative, Executive, and Judicial positions for the duration of their 16 week appointments.

Orientation

During the first week in January the Fellows are given an orientation to state government in general and to the legislature in particular. In addition to formal sessions conducted by the Program Director, The Fellows meet with the Governor, the heads of major executive departments, and with key legislative staff and support people.

Prior to the beginning of the internship, each Fellow indicates to the Program Director the method of assignment of academic credit that has been agreed to by his or her home institution.

Each Fellow receives 12 semester hours of academic credit. At the end of the program the Program Director recommends a letter grade for 12 hours as follows:

Internship, six hours

Seminar in Legislative Behavior, three hours

Readings and Research, three hours

The grade for the six hours of intern credit is based on observations made by the Program Director, from evaluations made by the legislative supervisor, and from evaluations made by the agency supervisor. The seminar grade and the readings and research grade is based on weekly meetings of the Fellows with the Program Director and on formal papers presented at the end of the program. A formal evaluation and copies of the papers done by each Fellow are forwarded to the student's faculty liaison person.

APPLICATION

JUDITH A. HERNDON

LEGISLATIVE FELLOWS PROGRAM

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

(Please return this application to your faculty representative. **An official copy of your transcript must be attached.**)

1. NAME _____
(LAST) (FIRST) (MIDDLE)
2. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. _____
3. CAMPUS ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE () _____
4. PERMANENT ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE () _____
5. COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY _____
CREDIT HOURS TO BE COMPLETED BY END OF CURRENT SEMESTER _____
MAJOR _____ MINOR _____
PRESENT CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE _____
EXPECTED DATE OF GRADUATION _____
6. NAME AT LEAST ONE COURSE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE THAT YOU HAVE
TAKEN AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL _____
7. ACADEMIC HONORS _____

8. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES _____

9. WORK EXPERIENCE (DATES, EMPLOYERS, RESPONSIBILITIES)

10. WHAT AREAS OF LEGISLATION INTEREST YOU MOST? (SUCH AS TAXATION, MINING, EDUCATION, ETC.)

11. ATTACH A TYPEWRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF YOURSELF OUTLINING YOUR ABILITIES, CAREER GOALS, INTEREST IN STATE GOVERNMENT, AND WHY YOU WANT TO BE AN INTERN IN THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

12. LIST THE FACULTY MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO SEND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION ON YOUR BEHALF.

| | <u>NAME</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> | <u>PHONE</u> |
|----|-------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1) | _____ | _____ _____ _____ | _____ |
| 2) | _____ | _____ _____ _____ | _____ |
| 3) | _____ | _____ _____ _____ | _____ |

APPLICANT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

JUDITH A. HERNDON LEGISLATIVE FELLOWS PROGRAM

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

 (PRINT) LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE

THE ABOVE NAMED STUDENT IS AN APPLICANT FOR THE HERNDON LEGISLATIVE FELLOWS PROGRAM. IF ACCEPTED INTO THIS PROGRAM, THE STUDENT WILL SPEND THE ENTIRE FORTHCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN CHARLESTON IN A WORK/STUDY ENVIRONMENT.

1. HOW WELL AND IN WHAT CAPACITY HAVE YOU KNOWN THIS STUDENT?
2. PLEASE COMPARE THIS STUDENT WITH OTHERS YOU HAVE KNOWN IN TERMS OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA.

| | TO P 5% | TO P 10% | TO P 25% | TO P 50% | LOWER 50% | NO BASIS FOR JUDGMENT |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| DEPENDABILITY | | | | | | |
| MOTIVATION | | | | | | |
| ABILITY TO WORK WITH OTHERS | | | | | | |
| NATIVE INTELLECTUAL ABILITY | | | | | | |
| BREADTH OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE | | | | | | |
| ABILITY IN ORAL EXPRESSION | | | | | | |
| ABILITY IN WRITTEN EXPRESSION | | | | | | |
| EMOTIONAL MATURITY | | | | | | |

3. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE CRITERIA, DOES THIS STUDENT POSSESS OTHER KNOWLEDGE, QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS, OR INTERESTS THAT MIGHT ENHANCE THE APPLICATION?

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____ DATE _____

POSITION OR TITLE _____ AT _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____

JUDITH A. HERNDON LEGISLATIVE FELLOWS PROGRAM

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

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|-------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| DEPENDABILITY | | | | | | |
| MOTIVATION | | | | | | |
| ABILITY TO WORK WITH OTHERS | | | | | | |
| NATIVE INTELLECTUAL ABILITY | | | | | | |
| BREADTH OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE | | | | | | |
| ABILITY IN ORAL EXPRESSION | | | | | | |
| ABILITY IN WRITTEN EXPRESSION | | | | | | |
| EMOTIONAL MATURITY | | | | | | |

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NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____ DATE _____

POSITION OR TITLE _____ AT _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

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| DEPENDABILITY | | | | | | |
| MOTIVATION | | | | | | |
| ABILITY TO WORK WITH OTHERS | | | | | | |
| NATIVE INTELLECTUAL ABILITY | | | | | | |
| BREADTH OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE | | | | | | |
| ABILITY IN ORAL EXPRESSION | | | | | | |
| ABILITY IN WRITTEN EXPRESSION | | | | | | |
| EMOTIONAL MATURITY | | | | | | |

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NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____ DATE _____

POSITION OR TITLE _____ AT _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT APPLICANT

I WAIVE MY RIGHT TO SEE THESE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION _____.

I DO NOT WAIVE MY RIGHT TO SEE THESE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION _____

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

RETURN TO _____ (FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE)

