



AACI Advocacy Program Internship Description

AGENCY OVERVIEW

More than thirty years ago, a group of citizens gathered together to express discontent and share common concerns about their experiences as Asian Americans. This small group of community leaders founded Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) in 1973. Today, AACI is the largest non-profit organization dedicated to serving Asian Americans in Santa Clara County.

Focusing on the diverse Asian American community, AACI's mission is to improve the health, mental health, and well-being of individuals and their families by providing an array of human services.

AACI's Advocacy Program supports coalition building, leadership development, and advocacy to support the community. An advocacy internship at AACI includes the opportunity to work on the following projects:

Asian American Voices Project

The Silicon Valley Asian American Voices Project uses multimedia tools to share the stories of Asian American immigrants to educate, advocate, and engage people on related community issues. The project features an "Asian American Voices" DVD and Discussion Kit, interactive website, social media campaign, policy brief, community dialogues, and community educator program. Through these tools and activities, the project deepens the understanding of immigrant experience, builds trust between diverse groups of people, and inspires action in support of immigrant communities.

Asian Pacific Islander Justice Coalition (APIJC)

APIJC is a network of over 25 Asian and Pacific Islander (API) focused organizations in the Silicon Valley that advocates for social justice and seeks to unite and empower the API community. APIJC has an infrastructure for timely advocacy on critical issues and mobilization through public statements, press releases, press conferences, letter writing, and petitioning. APIJC members meet and organize during the monthly dinner meetings to collaborate on issues affecting the API community. They have also sponsored and hosted community events to promote civic leadership and enhance the work of member organizations. AACI helps administer APIJC.

Advocacy

AACI provides a voice to Asians and Pacific Islanders (API)s in Santa Clara County by advocating on issues of equality and social justice. By building relationships among local Asian groups and policymakers, AACI has been able to promote civic engagement and local leadership among APIs.

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

An internship with AACI Advocacy Program provides individuals with an opportunity to gain exposure to important issues faced by the API community, community advocacy, civic participation, and networking, researching, and organizing on issues that affect the API community. Interns will have opportunities to research, discuss, and organize around issues such as redistricting, voting rights, immigration rights, API-focused legislation, race relations, and anti-Asian awareness.

The expectations of AACI interns are as follows:

- Positive attitude and an ability to work as a team with other members.
- Willingness to be flexible and work on a variety of tasks.
- Fulfill duties, time commitments and schedule.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced by friendly environment.
- Strong communication with supervisor about questions, concerns, etc.
- Professionalism in working with other members of the community.
- Dress code (business casual).

INTERNSHIP BENEFITS

An internship with AACI Advocacy Program provides individuals with an opportunity to gain exposure to important issues faced by the API community, in terms of direct services that are being provided to clients, as well as community advocacy and legislative actions. Interns are given significant and meaningful responsibilities and some of the benefits include opportunities to:

- Build professional skills such as oral and written communications, computer skills, networking, interviewing, and research.
- Learn about issues affecting the Asian Pacific Islander community.
- Learn from members working in the API community, specifically the barriers and strategies used to advocate on a community's behalf.
- Gain a better sense of the interaction between nonprofit organizations, government agencies, the private sector, and the community.
- Network with other nonprofit organizations and government entities.
- Mentoring and shadowing.
- Be a part of a professional work environment and have opportunities to participate in community events and activities, including by not limited to the AACI's annual banquet and staff picnic.
- Make a difference in serving the community.

INTERNSHIP HOURS & LOCATION

The internship will require an estimated 20 hours a week (or three days a week) in the summer and at least 10 hours a week for fall and spring internships. The final hours and schedule will be negotiated between the intern and the supervisor.

AACI's office is located at 2400 Moorpark Avenue, Suite 300, San Jose, CA 95128. For more information, please email Van Dinh at Van.Dinh@aaci.org or call (408) 975-2730 ext. 114 for an internship application.