



December 7, 2020

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. President-Elect and Madam Vice President-Elect,

With the election behind us, we are anxious and excited to see how your administration will address the urgent crisis of youth unemployment while living up to your promise of creating more opportunity for every American.

Our experiences in the Executive Office of the President provided us with immense opportunities, and we had the honor of witnessing history in the making. Because of those experiences, a myriad of doors have opened for us. We are now elected officials, CEOs, public servants, advocates, and more.

Historically, however, the White House internship program has been unpaid. Because it is based in DC, one of the most expensive cities in the country, the experience is out of reach for many Americans. As former participants of the program, we urge you to begin by immediately pledging to pay White House interns. In doing so, your administration would send a clear message: young people—of all backgrounds—have the opportunity to work in the White House.

We have seen the power an internship can have on someone's career and professional development. Vice President-Elect Harris interned for the Senate office she now holds, and one of President-Elect Biden's former interns, Chris Coons, now holds his former seat in the Senate.

But the need to pay White House interns is not just about solving the problems exacerbated by the pandemic. Our country's racial, social, and economic inequities existed long before the coronavirus; COVID-19 made them impossible to ignore.

The fact is, unpaid internships perpetuate those inequities. They prevent young people of color and low socioeconomic status from gaining valuable professional experience because they cannot afford to work for free. More specifically, unpaid White House internships prevent the same young people from civic engagement and leadership. Similarly, unpaid White House internships mean that more often, only the most affluent young people are nurtured to be future leaders of this country. This sends the message that only people of a certain background deserve the opportunity to lead.

While we acknowledge that paying White House interns is only a step toward solving these inequities, the White House serves as an example to the rest of the country. By making a commitment to pay White House interns, your administration would be demonstrating to the entire country that you are dedicated to ensuring diversity in leadership, and that you consider young people a priority in the future of our nation's economy. Where you lead, others are sure to follow.

Undersigned,
Carlos Mark Vera, EOP, Class of 2014
Executive Director of Pay Our Interns

Deesha Dyer, Class of 2009
Jess Davidson, Class of Fall 2016
Meredith Veit, OVP, Class of 2015
Deon Jones, Class of Fall 2012
Jennifer Fearing, Class of 1991
Anthony Wright, Class of Summer 1993
Christina Lisi, Class of 1996
Christina Ascani, Class of 2013
Nic Lott, Class of 2001
Amy Bendekovits, Class of 2016
Daniel Delaney, OVP, Class of 2014
Deepen Gagneja, Fall 2014
Trevor Tejada-Gervais, Class of 2013
Caroline Cotto, Class of 2013
Sean McBride, Class of 2013
Sarah Funes, The White House Office of Legislative Affairs, Class of Fall 2016
David Mitchell, Class of Summer 2013
Sharon Elhadad, Class of 2014
Michelle Bloom, Class of 2013
Julia Hodum, Class of 2010
Jaylin D. McClinton, Class of 2016
Megan Havern, Class of 2013
Jackson Nannie, Class of 2018
Loren Dent, Class of 2013
Nicole Carter, Class of 2013
Victoria Ochoa, Class of 2014
Roger Wieand, Class of 2013
Hannah Sherman, Class of 2014
Jordan Thomas, Class of 2015
Caitlin Hodes, Class of 2014
Kiera Peltz, Class of 2014
Ryan Williams, Class of 2019
Robert Park, Class of 2013
Adam Rabinowitz, Class of 2013

Walter García, Class of 2013
Christopher M. Gray, Class of 2013
Graham White, Class of 2013
Lauren Miller, Class of 2015
Peter La Fountain, Class of 2013
Saraphin Dhanani, Class of 2014
Miriam Archibong, Class of 2013
Jessica Pham-Ruhland, Class of 2013
Hannah Botelho, Class of 2013
Alden Woodhull, Class of 2013
Brian Trainer, Class of 2018
Eric Messinger, WHC, Class of Fall 2013
Robert Mark, Class of 2013
Alexander Bradley, Class of Summer 2015
Joseph Soto, Class of 2013
Molly Lao, Class of 2013
Sergio Lopez, Class of 2015
Ahilya Chawla, Class of 2014
Jordan Delzell, Class of 2014
Sonja Breda, Class of 2016
Kady Cox, Class of 2016
Chris Dowd, Class of 2016
Arshan Barzani, Class of 2016
Jake Patrick Collins, Class of 2016
Rochelle Golliday, Class of Fall 2014
Matt Gerstein, Class of Fall 2014
Meredith Monti, Class of Fall 2013
B. Brandolini, Class of 2016
Daniel Eyal, Class of 2016
Melody, Class of Fall 2014
Lee Sova-Claypool, Class of 2013
Christopher Kromer, Class of 2014
Jasneet Hora, Class of 2014
Jeff Henry, Class of 2014
Camaley Jennings, Class of 2014
Shayra Reyes, Class of 2016
Alyse Conn-Powers, Class of 2013
Adriana Schaffer, Class of 2014
Aisha Naseem, OPE, Class of Fall 2014
Vincent Fang, Class of Summer 2013
Klevis Xharda, Class of 2013
Rebecca Kriegman, Class of 2014
Hannah Corn, Class of 2016
Caleb Wong, Class of Fall 2016
Lydia Anglin, Class of 2016
Seth Silverman, Class of 2013 and Class of 2014
Heidi Drauschak, Class of 2013
Jordan Hattar, Class of 2016
Brandon Jacobsen, Class of 2016

Joseph Lawlor, Class of Fall 2016
Lotty Lockhart, Class of 2017
Benjamin Shore, Class of 2019
Ariel Rofeim, Class of 2014
Joshua Sande, Class of 2014
Pranav Nanda, Class of 2015
Laura Bruno, Class of 2012
Ryan Nees, Class of 2010
Taylor Newman, Class of 2016
Christopher Alan Nickelson, Class of Fall 2015
Ricky J. Marc, J.D., M.S., Class of Spring 2016
Asher Mayerson, Class of 2014
Dillon Roseen, Class of 2015
Gabriel Lerner, Class of Spring 2016
Ashwin Puri, (Obama), Class of Summer 2016
Corey Sims, Class of 2012
Clint Light, DPC, Class of 2014
Anne Buckwalter, OFL, Class of Spring 2016
Cecille Joan Avila, Class of 2012
André Zhang Sonera, Class of 2014
Justin Balik, Class of 2011
Pamela Vogel, Class of 2014
Evan Casper-Futterman, Ph.D., Class of 2012
Gloria Zhang, Class of 2016
Vail Kohnert-Yount, Class of 2013
Vincent Bish, Class of 2015
Débora Aponte Martínez, Class of Summer 2014
Lindsey Constantino, Class of 2012
Ashwin Warrior, Class of 2013
Andrew Estrada, Class of 2011
Anisha Hindocha, Class of 2014
Lois Johnson, Class of 2016
Marie McGrory Class of 2012
Avery Halfon, Class of 2010
Leslie Ramirez, Class of 2016
Anna Applebaum, Class of 2010
Manasa Punugu, Class of Spring 2014
Renita Marcellin, Class of 2015
Joshua Pollack, Class of 2010
Kody Olson, Class of 2016
Michael Taylor, Class of 2010
Laura Kelly, Class of 2016
Stefani Jones, Class of Summer 2014
Corey Sims, Class of 2012
Evan Kaufman, Class of 2011
Jasmine Haddaway, Class of 2016
Brittany Alexander, Class of 2011
Ashkea McAllister, Class of 2011
Sarah Armstrong, Class of 2015

Andrea Patton, Class of 2015
Ethan Mallick Hossain, Class of 2013
Jordan Harp, Class of Winter 2010
Derik Ohanian, Class of 2013
Deanna Pantin Parrish, Class of 2012
Jordan Schermerhorn, Class of Summer 2015
Elena Saltzman, Class of Summer 2014
Janette Valenzo, Class of 2015
Amar Bhatti, Class of 2016
Abby Godard, Class of 2015
Andrew Terrell, Class of 2012
Gil Damon, Class of 2016
William Layden, Class of Spring 2011
Ingela Rundquist, Class of 2015
Mariam Ehrari, Class of Fall 2015
Gopika Mavalankar, Class of 2016
Kelsey Reid, Class of 2016
Kathleen Leon, Class of Spring 2016
Sarah Sullivan, Class of Fall 2011
Brittany Smith, Class of 2013
Esther Omolola, Class of Fall 2015
Nora Stephens, Class of Summer 2013
Chris Lash, Class of 2011
Jaime Moore, Class of Spring 2010
Abby Hogan, Class of 2010
Magda Socha, Class of 2012
Brian Bendett, Class of 2011
James Willard, Class of Spring 2016
Desireé Luckey, Class of 2009
Zachary Byrum, Class of 2015
Joshua Williams, Class of 2016
Alyssa Taylor Canter, Class of 2013
Olivia Ragan, Class of 2014
Shaquana Chaneyfield, Class of 2016
Bradley Halpern, Class of 2012
Ashveer Singh, Class of 2015
Jamie Sheasley, Class of 2016
Emily Collinson, Class of 2015
Christina Modi, Class of 2015
Samantha Register, Class of 2013
Danielle Kijewski, Class of 2011
Josh Boxerman, Class of Fall 2015
Sarah Streyder, Class of 2015
Anthony Covington, Class of 2014
Cierra Jackson, Class of Spring 2016
Ryan Jackson, Class of 2016
Derek Dash, Class of Fall 2013
Ross Svenson, Class of 2013
Joshua Ferrer, Class of 2015

Lauren Tilmont, Class of Spring 2015
Micah Johnson, Class of 2013
Lauro A. Zuniga, Class of 2015
Michaela Ross, Class of Fall 2013
Natasha Patel, Class of 2014
David Glicklich, Class of 2016
Vaughn Stewart, Class of 2013
Gina Orlando, Class of Fall 2012
Alec Foster, Class of 2012
Michelle Burris, Class of 2011
Taylor Lustig, Class of 2012
Kimberly Curtis, Class of 2014
Karolina Ramos, Class of 2016
Matthew Stone, Class of 2016
Isael Torres, Class of 2016
Lindsay Stein (OPE), Class of 2014
Miriam Young, Class of 2016
Brian Highsmith, Class of 2010
Loully Saney, Class of 2014
Alex Clavering, Class of 2013
Katie Doyal, OPC, Class of Fall 2016
Laura Miller, Class of 2011
Katie Joiner, Class of 2016
Monica Carmean, Class of Spring 2012
Daniel O'Halloran, Class of 2014
Isaiah Beaton, Class of 2016
Evan Bursey, Class of 2016
Jamila Humphrie, Class of 2016
Kelsie Nagele, Class of 2013
Christopher Magliozzi, Class of 2012
Jazmin Kay, Class of 2016