Cristian Moreno

Being a freshman in college I didn’t know what to expect. I didn’t know how many classes would be like, what clubs to join, or how I would be able to make a difference. But that all changed once classes began and the on rush of support came forward. Classes turned out to be great, the get involved fair opened me up to tons of clubs and I learned how to make a difference. That lies within internships.

During the Honors Experience in June, I was told a lot about internships from my political science preceptor Prof. Michael Rodriguez. I was somewhat skeptical about the credibility major internships offered, just because it was unknown territory, but I was even more skeptical about the types of local internships that were even available. But like fate, I received an e-mail from Professor Rodriguez. In the email there was advice about a local internship that would require working with the Senator Jim Whelan. Now you have to understand that being a poly sci major, I one day hope to follow a career in politics, so I was pretty ecstatic when this internship position opened up. I applied for the internship and to my delight, it continues to be amazing.

Internships aren’t about getting coffee, or spend mindless hours doing mindless paperwork. Internships are about getting involved, gaining tons of experience, and meeting new people who have a lot to offer. And that’s exactly what this internship entailed. Just last week, as I helped represent the Senator at the Latino Democratic Caucus, I enjoyed a meal with mayors, and assemblymen and other dignitaries. I learned the true value behind every supporting vote, and how every person you talk to while canvassing, or telephoning makes a difference. And because I’ve talked to thousands of people, I have made a difference.

For any of those remaining that still doubt the credibility of internships, I offer you this piece of advice. Take a chance, devote some time and watch as the payoff gets bigger and bigger. There’s a whole world still out there to explore, and a little experience never hurts. Internships are there for you benefit and I can honestly say, my internship has confirmed my goals in life, well at least for the time being.