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This summer I spent a little over ten weeks interning in Washington, DC for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The EDA is an agency in the Department of Commerce that sole purpose is to help create jobs for the American people. The EDA does this by providing grants to areas that are in economic distress. The goal is that the grants will provide new employment, help retain existing jobs, as well as stimulate industrial and commercial growth in these communities. I was assigned to the Office of Regional Affairs, and was the personal intern for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the EDA. As a Political Science major, I learned so much from this experience and gained a lot of knowledge in the workings of governmental agencies.

I saw first hand the impact that these grants provide American communities. One of my tasks this summer was to write a success story of an EDA grant. I choose to write on the work the EDA did with the Tornado in Greensburg, KS in 2007. This task was the most rewarding because I got to see first hand the impact the grant had on this community. Besides this project, my roles and tasks this summer consisted of: editing and enhancing policy and procedures in the office, assisting in high priority projects for the Deputy Assistant Secretary, assisting in the production of policy briefs and briefing papers for the Deputy Assistant Secretary, as well as helping administer the Annual budget reports for the EDA to Congress and Capital Hill.

In these hard economic times, with so much uncertainty about our economy, working for the EDA, being exposed to their work and missions, learning about the different options for American communities, not only educated me in an area that I may have been lacking in my

education but definitely gave me hope about the direction that the American economy is heading towards.