

This summer, I worked at Global Solutions Pittsburgh as a Program Intern. Global Solutions Pittsburgh is a nonprofit organization based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania that is an affiliate of a national organization named Citizens for Global Solutions. For the past sixty years, Global Solutions Pittsburgh has worked to raise awareness about global issues and the impacts of a globalizing world on local communities through education and outreach. The organization also tries to create strong networks of like-minded groups in the region to meet its goals. For example, they also operate the Pittsburgh Human Rights Network, which seeks to connect organizations in the Pittsburgh area that are focused on human rights and raise awareness about human rights issues around to world.

A major aspect of my position included updating Global Solutions Pittsburgh's social media accounts on Twitter and Facebook. Part of my responsibilities every day included finding content for the Pittsburgh Human Rights Network social media platforms. One of the major focuses of the Pittsburgh Human Rights Network social media was to create awareness of current human rights issues by connecting our followers to the news articles that dealt with these issues. As a result, I would start most of my days by reading articles from a variety of news sources and select typically three to four articles to post to the Pittsburgh Human Rights Network social media accounts. On top of just finding and creating content for social media I also helped to evaluate the effectiveness of our social media presence using the software HootSuite as well as the tools that measure metrics on Facebook.

I also helped Global Solutions Pittsburgh with event planning. I was directly involved in planning the organization's community discussion series called Global Challenges & Local Impacts. This main focus of this program was to increase understanding of major international issues and discuss their effects both at home and abroad. To plan these

events I would start by researching to find experts who would be appropriate for the specific discussion and reach out to them to see if they were interested in participating. I also helped to create advertising for the events as well as completing research on the topic for the discussion to create questions for the discussion and to help the moderator of the discussion prepare for the event. I also had to work with the initial planning phases of Global Solutions Pittsburgh's annual youth leadership conference for college students that takes place every fall. I helped go through evaluations of the conference from previous years to further develop the program to meet its goals.

As a part of my internship I also regularly contributed to Global Solutions Pittsburgh's blog. I would write original pieces on current events as well as summaries of some of the organization's events. Having this responsibility during my internship gave me a lot of very valuable experiences. First, helped me develop skills in writing concisely and to get my point across while writing on some complex issues. Also, my writing now has a web presence, and I may be able to use it as an example for future interviews for jobs or internships.

My internship also gave me some very practical skills with some technological tools other than social media that could be very helpful for future employment. For example, I gained experience with MailChimp and WordPress. MailChimp is software that allows organizations to send mass e-mails to mailing lists as well as track the effectiveness of the e-mail campaigns. During my internship, I helped to develop a new set of e-mail campaigns that served as follow-ups to Global Solutions Pittsburgh's events that would inspire further action from the organization's supporters. I also had the opportunity to use the website development software WordPress. I would use this tool to post my blogs to

Global Solutions Pittsburgh's website as well as to help update other existing parts of the website.

One of the best parts of the internship was that I had many opportunities to network with professionals in similar organizations in the Pittsburgh area. This gave me the chance to connect with organizations that I may be interested in working for as well as to hear from more experienced people how they got to their current position. I also worked in a small office with a relatively young staff which I think was a benefit to my internship experience. This allowed me to build relationships and really learn from all of the people in the office. I was able to get a very good feel for what it looks like to work for or run a nonprofit no matter what the central purpose to that organization was. However, because the office was small, there were other interns, and the summer is slow for the organization there were times when there was not work explicitly assigned for me to do. Although this could be frustrating at times, it did teach me to assert myself and make it known to my supervisors that I wanted to do work and would do it effectively.

For me, this internship definitely helped to confirm the fact that I am very interested in working with international affairs and politics in some capacity. I also found that some of my favorite parts of the internship were times when I was completing research for various projects or writing blog posts. Therefore, through this experience I was able to learn that I probably would want to work with an organization or think tank that deals with these issues that I am interested in or work in an academic setting. In all, I am very pleased with my internship experience and it has helped gain valuable skills as well as to clarify my ultimate career goals.