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Brian McDaniel acts as liaison for CSP students looking for internships

BY REBECCA BEASLEY

ONE OF THE MANY THINGS all college students seek is the perfect internship. It not only looks good on a resume, but it also provides learning opportunities and work experience for students. Most programs suggest having some work experience on your resume that resembles your desired field. Education majors might work at a summer camp or daycare, or theater majors might have community theater experience. For some, identifying these opportunities is fairly easy. Others, however, have a hard time finding good internships that relate to their chosen profession or desired occupation.

Associate Professor Brian McDaniel has years of experience that have given him a diverse background and numerous contacts. Currently, McDaniel is a lobbyist, or a “government relations lawyer.” For those unfamiliar with lobbyists, McDaniel explains it with a comparison of the judicial branch and legislative branch. Lawyers help clients navigate the judicial system while lobbyists help clients navigate the legislative branch. Essentially, lobbyists represent their clients’ interests when it comes to policies and lawmaking. McDaniel has also worked as staff in the House of Representatives and as staff for a state governor. Before that, he was an attorney in private practice.

Throughout his career, Prof. McDaniel has worked with a myriad of clients and associates. His connections to various departments, managers, officials, and representatives allow him to connect CSP students to prospective employers. This network of professionals includes people outside of the government as well. His lobbying for clients provides another route for connecting students outside of political science majors to potential internships. Prof. McDaniel explained that “if you know everybody, then you don’t have to know everything.” The importance of networking and meeting new people is emphasized and encouraged.

Students should not shy away from reaching out to Prof. McDaniel, regardless of their major. There are plenty of behind-the-scenes jobs that students would not always think of that would suit them perfectly. McDaniel is an adjunct professor for government classes, but he can help more than just political science majors. On the other hand, McDaniel reminds political science majors that politics is much more than just siding with a certain party. There is much more potential in that field than just the title of “politician.”

Anyone can reach out to discuss possible internships, though juniors and seniors are especially encouraged to do so. Once a student has a concept of what they want to do, they can try something in that field. The more specific a student’s goal, the easier it will be to find an internship. Students are encouraged to expand on the general concept of their major and dig into what they really want to do and what interests them. McDaniel hopes to introduce students to new career paths as well as future employers but reminds students that he is not an academic advisor, and they should still reach out to the proper heads of departments when looking for internships in their field for certifications.

THE FIRST STEP IS TO CONTACT MCDANIEL AT HIS CSP EMAIL, MCDANIEL@CSP.EDU

Portage for a Purpose

BY THOMAS PRESNALL

HE BEGAN HIS JOURNEY on September 1st at the border between South Dakota and Minnesota. On October 5th, 35 days and 313 miles later, Evan Hansen completed his journey of carrying a canoe, along with the grief of all those who lost loved ones to suicide, the distance from the Canadian border to the Minnesota-Wisconsin border. Hansen’s original plan had been to start at the Canadian border and walk the Superior Hiking Trail, but wildfires derailed that plan, and he was forced to improvise and instead started at the border to South Dakota and walked the same distance as the trail. He hiked 313 miles across the south of Minnesota all the way to Wisconsin with a 10-foot canoe on his back as well as the love for 645 individuals.

Most people would never dream of walking such a distance, let alone doing so carrying a canoe, but Hansen had a very special reason for doing so. Over the past few years, he had lost the lives of four loved ones from his social circles to suicide and he wanted to raise awareness and money for mental illness so that others don’t go through the same experience and also to honor the friends he had lost at the same time. His plan was to have the names of those lost to suicide written on the canoe as well as to raise \$100,000 for the Minnesota National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI).

In an interview before his journey, Hansen told KTTC News that “This canoe represents that burden. The burden of those who have attempted or completed suicide have had to carry. And then the weight of grief that their loved ones continue to bear to this day.” Hansen gave a very similar quote to FOX 9 before he set out, saying: “The big message [is] to tell people who are grieving the loss of a loved one, or contemplated suicide or attempted suicide is that you’re not alone, you’re not a burden.”

Hansen completed his journey on October 5th. Exactly 645 names adorned the yellow canoe, each one written by those who have also lost loved ones to suicide. Along the way, Hansen raised a quarter of his monetary goal, \$25,000, for NAMI and hoped that he had accomplished his goal of raising more awareness for those who are suffering from a mental illness or are contemplating suicide.