



**For Immediate Release**

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## **IN ITS FINAL SUMMER, PURDUE INSTITUTE FOR CIVIC COMMUNICATION ASSISTS STUDENTS WITH SUMMER INTERNSHIPS AND CAREERS**

-- Many Students Take Positions in Washington, D.C. --

This summer will be a productive learning experience for 19 undergraduate students and graduating seniors with the Purdue Institute for Civic Communication (PICC), who have been placed in internships and employment opportunities from Washington to Denver.

In announcing the placement of these students, PICC founder and Executive Director Carolyn Curiel said this is the last summer she will be able to assist Purdue students with placements and other support that positions them to pursue their careers.

“I am leaving Purdue in December,” she said. “And with our institute’s support coming to an end, this kind of dedicated, high-level assistance for Purdue undergraduates and graduating seniors unfortunately will not be available through the PICC after December 2017. But the program will end with a record of solid success for students.”

The PICC, which is university wide and nonpartisan, has been made possible by a four-year grant from the Daniels Fund. Curiel’s project, however, began eight years ago when she became a Purdue professor. The program has assisted nearly 100 undergraduate and graduate students to attain internships, fellowships, and employment in non-academic careers, especially in Washington, and to enter top graduate and law schools. Curiel’s students receive merit scholarships (more than \$200,000 to date) and other financial support, as well as unique mentoring and class opportunities, including classes in Washington in the program Curiel created in partnership with Cable-Supported Public Affairs Network (C-SPAN).

Dr. Katie Cahill, Associate Director of the PICC, said, "In my eight years at Purdue with a variety of programs, the PICC stands out for its dedication to student success. The PICC provides direction to students in making career choices and helps to open their eyes to possible professional paths. By connecting them with high-quality and influential mentors who can serve as their network of support, the PICC helps students to succeed after Purdue." Cahill later this month also will depart Purdue. Her next position will be as the Associate Director for the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee Knoxville, where she said she hopes to replicate the success of the PICC.

Curiel, a former journalist with The New York Times, ABC News, and The Washington Post, also had a career in high levels of public service, as a White House speechwriter and as a U.S. Ambassador. She tapped her experience and her network of contacts to teach, mentor, and connect Purdue students. Dozens of her former students work in Washington.

Lisa Abrego, who took several of Curiel's classes before she graduated in May 2013, is now Creative Strategist at the marketing and advertising firm Artemis Ward in Washington. "The PICC guided me and showed me all the different types of things you could do with a liberal arts degree," she said. "I had thought my options were so limited. I didn't know how to go about finding opportunities, but Ambassador Curiel and the program helped me."

The PICC's larger mission has been to prepare students to participate in civic life and contribute as informed citizens. Curiel, a clinical professor of in the Brian Lamb School of Communication at Purdue, was named this year by Crain's NewsPro as one of the top journalism instructors in the nation. The magazine noted that her program gives students "hands-on experiences" and "an insider's look at Washington, D.C., protocols and access to places most undergrads do not get."

Ramsey Ali, a junior in computer science, is in his second year as a PICC Intern with The Washington Post. Ali, who has been in two of Curiel's classes, said, "The Washington Post internship gave me the opportunity to expand my knowledge beyond what is learned in the classroom. I found that what you learn hands-on in a professional environment is exponentially more valuable than what you can experience in a classroom. Though I am a STEM major, PICC has been the foundation of where I am now."

Taylor Martin, who will be a senior in communication, is interning with C-SPAN in Washington. Martin has taken two PICC courses instructed by Curiel. She said, "Without the PICC, this opportunity would not have been possible. I am incredibly grateful to further develop my professional career this summer."

Following are the PICC students and where they will work this summer:

- Ramsey Ali, Junior, Computer Science, *The Washington Post*, Washington
- Samantha Boram, Senior, Communication, *U.S. Representative Susan W. Brooks*, Indianapolis

- Taylor Cody, Senior, Corporate Communication, *C-SPAN*, Washington
- Catherine Dillon, Graduating Senior, Communication, *Signal Group*, Washington
- James Doherty, Senior, Management and Marketing, *DIRECTV*, Denver
- Sara Dunco, Senior, Communication, *Bolshen PR*, Indianapolis
- Eric Erli, Graduating Senior, Political Science and Philosophy, *Applico*, New York City
- Sarah Faulkner, Senior, Political Science, *U.S. Senator Todd Young*, Washington
- Ted Fry, Senior, Management, *South Inc*, Nashville, Tennessee
- Cheyanne Geideman, Graduating Senior, Visual Communication Design, *Purdue Center for Regional Development*, West Lafayette, Indiana
- Conner Klotz, Senior, Political Science, *U.S. Senator Joe Donnelly's Re-election Campaign*, Indianapolis
- Ferdinand Macatangay, Senior, Computer, Graphics, Technology, *C-SPAN*, Washington
- Taylor Martin, Senior, Communication, *C-SPAN*, Washington
- Madeline McGrath, Graduating Senior, Communication, *Weber Shandwick*, Chicago
- Mason McLary, Junior, Management, *Washington Intern Student Housing (WISH)*, Washington
- Grace Moser, Graduating Senior, Psychological Science, *PSB Research*, Washington
- Myranda Moye, Senior, Mechanical Engineering, *Booz, Allen, Hamilton*, Washington
- Katalina Valle, Graduating Senior, Communication, *Starcom Worldwide*, Chicago
- Mikaela Wieland, Graduating Senior, Agriculture Communication, *Charleston and Orwig*, Hartland, Wisconsin

Graduating PICC seniors Tyler Knutson (corporate communication) and Penny Wang (food science) will be entering graduate programs with the support of the PICC. Knutson will be attending University of Notre Dame's Law School, and Wang will head to University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy.

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