

Maria C. Mendoza

Graduation Year: Junior

College: Arts & Letters

Major(s): Political Science

Minors(s): Latin American Studies and Portuguese

Scholar Group Membership: Sorin Scholar

Did you received other funding for this project?: No

Could you have completed this project without CUSE funding? No

More details on CUSE funding assistance? Without CUSE funding, I would not have been able to travel to and live in Washington, D.C. this summer for my unpaid internship.

Project Title: Internship with the G50

Project Location: Washington, D.C.

ND Faculty Mentor: N/A

Project Type: Internship

Why did you undertake this project/experience? Deepen your knowledge of a topic or issue, Career discernment and/or preparation

Did your funded experience help you:

[Deepen your understanding of your coursework or field of study]: Very Much

[Discern your interests and post-bac goals]: Very Much

[Become confident in your ability to set and achieve your goals]: Very Much

[Gain a more nuanced view of local, national, or global communities]: Very Much

[Improve your written and verbal communications skills]:Very Much

Tell us about your experience.

This summer, CUSE gave me the opportunity to work as an intern for the Group of Fifty (G50) in Washington, D.C. for ten weeks. The G50 is a nonprofit, apolitical initiative founded by Dr. Moisés Naím committed to promoting dialogue among forward-thinking Latin American CEOs. Throughout my internship my primary duty was to assist with planning for the G50's 2015 Annual Meeting with the objective of creating a forum where Latin America's top CEOs can exchange their ideas about the future of the region. From longer-term projects such as conducting research critical for agenda development and pre-session briefing materials for speakers and moderators, to shorter-term assignments like assisting in member outreach in Spanish and Portuguese, my work with the G50 was vital to the preparation of their meeting to be held in October of this year.

Describe the impact this project had, both on you as a student-scholar and on the people you worked with.

Working with the G50 this summer was an incredibly rewarding experience. It was a privilege to serve as an intern for Dr. Moisés Naím's, one of the world's leading and most influential global thinkers, organization and to help him carry out his vision for this year's meeting. Working for Dr.

Naím and his team allowed me to develop and improve myself as a student scholar by allowing me to apply my knowledge and skills from the classroom to my work in a professional environment. Not only was I able to develop lasting relationships with people I admire, but I was also able to learn by asking questions, listening to invaluable insight, and observing firsthand the work G50 does. Since its first meeting in 1993, the G50 has featured some of the most renowned intellectuals and world leaders at its annual meetings, including former and current heads of states, Nobel laureates, and Pulitzer Prize winners. My work with the G50 not only allowed me to improve my research skills by creating briefings for global practitioners, intellectuals, and world leaders, but also allowed me to gain an immense amount of in depth knowledge about questions of global importance today.

Describe how this experience is connected to your plans as a student or future professional.

My summer in Washington, D.C. undoubtedly helped me to further discern both my academic and career plans and to develop a strategy for experiences and skills I would like to obtain to succeed in the future. In addition to all the knowledge I gained, I was able to build great connections and make valuable contacts for the future. My internship experience was so successful that I was invited to join Dr. Naím and the G50 team for their annual meeting in Cambridge this October. Without the support of CUSE that allowed me to pursue this internship, I never would have been granted this amazing opportunity to meet Latin America's top CEOs joined by the world's leading intellectuals and to see my work come to life. While in D.C., I was also to participate in the Career Center's mentoring program, which paired me with a Notre Dame alumna for the summer. My mentor, a former Notre Dame student, was able to advise me on courses, professors, and experiences I should take advantage of before graduation that would be valuable for launching me into a career path similar to hers. My mentorship also helped me to further explore the possibility of pursuing graduate school or a fellowship after graduation before entering the workforce like my mentor did.

What advice would you give other students who are planning to pursue similar projects?

I would encourage all students to pursue scholarly engagement activities during the summer, be they research, internships, or creative endeavors, and to apply for funding. CUSE's generosity allowed me to partake in this unpaid internship I would have otherwise been unable to pursue. Thanks to CUSE, I was able to grow intellectually, enhance my professional and communication skills, further explore my desired career field through my internship and mentorship, and make a positive contribution to the G50 through my experience in Washington, D.C. this summer.

I acknowledge that this form has been filled out truthfully and to the best of my ability. I understand that this information will be shared with many different CUSE constituencies. As such, I have provided as much useful information as I was able. I understand that CUSE will not complete my award disbursement until this form is successfully completed. If I have any questions or concerns, I will contact CUSE before submitting this form. To illustrate that you understand all of these points, please enter your Notre Dame email in the box below.

undefined

