



Gloucester County Resident Ariel Miles Awarded William J. Hughes Center Scholarship

Miles Interns with The Heritage Foundation Think Tank in Washington, D.C.

For Immediate Release; photo attached

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Galloway Township, NJ - Stockton senior Ariel Miles is spending her last semester at the nation's capital through the Washington Internship Program with help from a scholarship she received from the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

Miles, a Political Science and Criminal Justice double major from Williamstown, NJ, is interning for The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, where she is researching expiring appropriations and bills passed in the last lame duck session to help the institution strategically plan its efforts.

She was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy during a recent celebration of the Washington Internship Program's 40th anniversary. The check was presented by Ambassador William J. Hughes, for whom the center is named.

"It was a great and much needed surprise," Miles said.

The Hughes Center scholarship program was established in 2011 with funds raised through the Center's Civility in Government and Politics awards dinner, and has since awarded \$6,000 to six deserving students. Scholarships are meant to help defray costs for students who are interning through the Washington Internship Program.

"This experience is the best thing I have ever done. I am getting to do work and research that is actually meaningful and I can see what my office is doing with it and where it is going. I just worked on a project for the president of The Heritage Foundation. You just can't beat that in my book," Miles said of her experience so far.

After graduation, Miles hopes to work at the capital for a few years before going after her **-more-**

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ultimate goal of becoming a campaign manager.

“I love elections and reading about them. Election night is like waking up on my birthday for me, but a thousand times better,” she said.

With 2,000 phone calls, 20,000 door-knocks, 10,000 literature drops and 3,000 signs under her belt from working on a number of local campaigns, including those of Gov. Chris Christie, former Assemblyman John Amodio and Assemblyman Chris Brown, she is well on her way.

“I have dreamed of going to Washington to intern since my first semester at Stockton when I found out about the Washington Center program, but I didn’t think I could do it, get in and find an internship. I never thought I was good enough and it was my mom who made me apply,” she said. She also credits the Mailroom staff for their encouragement, her County Republican Vice-Chair Phyllis Martin for believing in her and Dr. Michael Rodriguez, associate professor of Political Science, who coordinates the D.C. internship program.

Of Dr. Rodriguez, she said, “Without him I wouldn’t be in D.C. He is one of the best professors that Stockton has and not just in the classroom, but outside of it and as a preceptor.”

Before being accepted to the Washington Internship Program, Miles interned for Assemblyman Domenic DiCicco in Washington Township and served as a constituent relations intern for Gov. Christie. Miles also works as a student worker in the Stockton College Mailroom and founded a campus chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed community service fraternity. She was a 4-H volunteer for many years and enjoys serving the community.

More than 1,100 alumni have participated in the Washington Internship Program since its inception in 1975. The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars is an independent, nonprofit organization serving hundreds of colleges and universities in the United States and other countries by providing selected students challenging opportunities to work and learn in Washington, D.C. for academic credit.

About the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy (www.stockton.edu/hughescenter) at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey. The Center is named for William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton College. The Hughes Center can be found on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/Hughes.Center.Stockton.College> and can be followed on Twitter at www.twitter.com/hughescenter.



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