

CHCI Congressional Internship Program Brings Diversity to Capitol Hill

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), the nation’s premier Latino youth leadership development and educational services organization, welcomed the arrival of its third-ever Spring Congressional Internship class to Washington, D.C., on Monday, February 6, 2012. Twelve undergraduates arrived from nine states to take part in the nationally-recognized and award-winning CHCI Congressional Internship Program (CIP).

With the support of Walmart, the CIP offers three internship sessions each year that provides Latino college students unmatched job opportunities in congressional offices on Capitol Hill as well as an opportunity to participate in CHCI’s nationally renowned leadership and professional training program. The goal of the program is to expose talented Latino college students to the inner-workings of the federal government while preparing them to become part of the workforce pipeline to fill leadership positions in all sectors – private, public, and non profit.

“CHCI is committed to creating opportunities for young Latinos to come to Washington, D.C., and learn not only how the federal government operates, but how they can work to impact public policy for the betterment of their communities,” said Esther Aguilera, CHCI President & CEO. “Thanks to Walmart’s support, we are keeping the promise to the next generation of leaders and ensuring that future halls of Congress accurately represent the growing Hispanic population in America.”

The 2012 Spring Congressional Internship class reflects the national diversity of the Latino community, representing eight ethnic backgrounds, 12 academic institutions, and nine academic majors. Nearly 60 percent of the class is the first generation to attend college and 100 percent come from homes with a total income below \$45,000.

“The CHCI Congressional Internship signifies the beginning of a new journey in my life,” said Linda Gomez, CHCI 2012 Spring Congressional Intern and Madison, WI, native. “I look forward to applying all of this acquired knowledge to better improve not only myself, but to also inspire those around me.”

The CIP provides Latino college students with work placement on Capitol Hill four days a week, where they gain substantive work and networking experience. Interns also participate in once-a-week educational programs and leadership training at CHCI headquarters, where they meet with national public- and private-sector leaders and engage in national policy discussions. Interns are required to complete a community service project and are provided with housing, roundtrip transportation to and from Washington, D.C., and a stipend. All of this is possible through longstanding support from Walmart and Southwest Airlines – official airline of CHCI’s Congressional Internship Program.

Applicants can apply for the CIP at www.chci.org. The deadline for the 2012 fall session is April 27, 2012.

About CHCI

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), a nonprofit and nonpartisan 501(c) (3) organization, provides leadership development programs and educational services to students and young emerging leaders. The CHCI Board of Directors is comprised of Hispanic Members of Congress, nonprofit, union and corporate leaders. For more information call CHCI at (202) 543-1771, visit www.chci.org, or join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter \(chci\)](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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