

AAC Breakout Session – UCDC Presentation

- Who I am in relation to UCDC – Campus Coordinator, but I will speak to UCDC as a whole
- Brief overview of the program: study, live, intern in DC
 - 32 hours per week (UCSB) interning, take a course (or courses) 1 day a week, live in UC Washington Center
- A few points I want to hit that all emphasize overarching theme: UCDC is a transformative experience for students beyond the classroom, and adds significant value to students' higher education overall
 - **1) Students learn how to apply to jobs and conduct themselves in the work place**
 - UCDC application, internship applications, office environment
 - Often first time students are in a formal office environment 8 hours/day
 - **2) UCDC offers relevant experience directly in industry students may want to work in**
 - In an increasingly competitive job market that often requires relevant experience upon application for entry level positions, internships provide relevant experience while still in school
 - Go beyond learning about field in classroom and actually experience first hand
 - **3) UCDC helps students re-evaluate/inform career choices with hands-on work experience**
 - Law → Foreign Service anecdote
 - **4) Invaluable networking opportunities**
 - In the internship: supervisors, office visitors, and sponsored events
 - Department of Commerce anecdote: just walking guests to the proper location, student came away with a stack of business cards and informational interview offers
 - City itself: happy hours, informational interviews, events
 - In the building: Alumni Networking Night, professors and guest speakers, Monday night forums
 - **5) Bringing UCDC back to campus: Informs classroom learning with "real-life" experience**
 - Example: Political Science major takes a Congress class on campus after participating in UCDC -- can contribute more to discussion, etc.