

Investing in SOUTH DAKOTA'S FUTURE LEADERS

The University of South Dakota can make an impact on the lives of students pursuing public service and government internships in Pierre by providing financial support in the form of housing stipends and scholarships. Through this support, USD can ensure students have access to opportunities that help them develop into our future leaders.

USD students have had great success in securing internships in public service and government. USD's Department of Political Science is a model example of an academic department connecting students to real-world learning opportunities; the department assists students in identifying and preparing for appropriate internship opportunities, as well as assessing assigned academic materials for credit hours. With the creation of the Center for Career Design, the university is well positioned to prepare students from majors all across campus for the same kinds of public service experiences.

While these internships offer invaluable opportunities for skill development and career preparation, they are not accessible to every student. The costs associated with short-term rental housing present a significant financial barrier, thus limiting the number of USD students who can pursue these opportunities.

With \$50,000 in support, USD will alleviate this financial burden by providing scholarships and housing stipends to students pursuing internships in Pierre. This support will make these enriching learning experiences more affordable and increase the number of students who can expand their education through these opportunities.

Funding put toward this initiative will have an immediate impact expanding opportunities for students, and it will serve as a strong complement to the Farber Fund; while the Farber Fund provides political science, criminal justice and international studies majors with financial support as they pursue experiential learning opportunities nationwide, this investment will support students from any major as they pursue internships in South Dakota's capital. Support will also enable momentum in this area, setting this initiative up for further growth.

USD students have gone on to become governors, senators, representatives and other leaders who shape policy and make an impact on their communities. By providing financial support in the form of scholarships and stipends, USD can ensure that our students have access to valuable, real-world opportunities as they develop into our future leaders.



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA

A LEGACY OF SUCCESS AND SERVICE IN PIERRE



"I loved interning in Pierre, and I cannot speak highly enough of my experience. I have met so many amazing people who have a direct role in the operations of our state. I have been able to not only observe the entire legislative process, but I have been able to be a part of it."

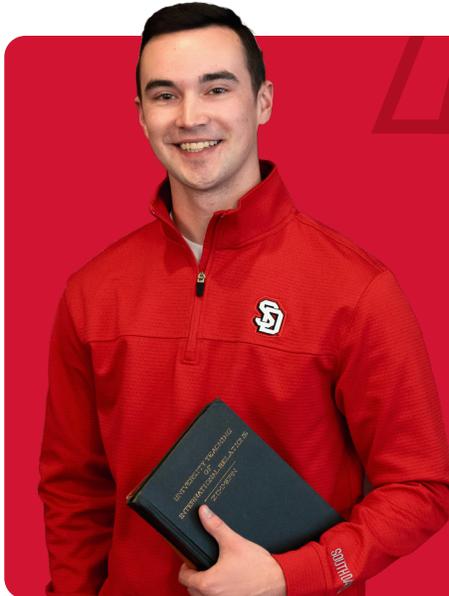
Ellie Hart

Mitchell, South Dakota

Political Science and Legal Studies Student

Internships in Pierre equip students with the skills and experiences to excel and serve their communities. Following her internship in the South Dakota Legislature, Ellie went on to serve as a congressional intern in Washington, D.C., was elected USD's Student Government Association vice president and was named a finalist for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship.

USD prioritizes opportunities for civic engagement, and for students like Max, those experiences can be the start of a fulfilling career. From serving as a research assistant at the Chiesman Center to completing a legislative internship in Pierre, Max gained real-world experience that supported him in his commitment to public service.



"The state legislative internship was easily the best thing I did for my career. It enhanced my political science education by providing hands-on experience that you can't get in the classroom; it lead to further political internships and jobs throughout college. I highly recommend this internship to all students with an interest in governance."

Max Mickelson '25

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Political Science and Economics Graduate

USD STUDENTS GAIN INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE AS THEY SERVE OUR STATE. OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS:

**30
STUDENTS**

have interned in the South Dakota Legislature

**2
STUDENTS**

have interned in the Governor's Office

**1
STUDENT**

has interned in the Secretary of State's Office

**2
STUDENTS**

have interned in the Attorney General's Office