

UofL Magazine

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS



Under Her Wing

NEELI BENDAPUDI TAKES CHARGE AS THE 18TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

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news & notes

Leaders in training

Louisville Metro internships grant political science students an up-close view of government

You've heard the saying "all politics is local." Some political science undergraduates are learning more about their field locally through new academic internships with Louisville Metro government.

Building on the longtime popularity of the Department of Political Science's Frankfort internships, the city version stemmed from conversations with Metro Council's then-President David Yates, '03A, a political science alumnus who enjoyed his state government experience.

"The [fall 2017] pilot program internship provided an opportunity for councilmembers and students to learn from each other," said Brian Boles, '12A, Yates' legislative assistant and fellow alum. "Councilmembers taught their interns how the local legislative body, the Louisville Metro Council, works with both the executive and judicial branches as well as working with and encouraging the state General Assembly to pass legislation that will better our city. Students conducted research pertaining to the city and their

councilmember's district that helped educate their members on the types of policies and improvements they should champion."

Student Matthew Mines called the internship "one of the best schooling experiences I could have ever asked for," sharing his sense of accomplishment when a councilmember used his research.

"I loved my experience working with local government because I was able to learn so much about the city, the people and the issues that continue to face not only Louisville but the Commonwealth as a whole," Mines said.

Classmate Thomas Veatch worked with the council's Democratic Caucus communications director, Tony Hyatt. Veatch said he attended meetings, worked on caucus newsletters, researched topics and met individually with councilmembers.

"Through the internship, I acquired valuable knowledge on public policy and was able to make connections that I ultimately would have never been able to obtain, if not for the experience," Veatch said.



The first class of Louisville Metro interns from UofL assembles in the Louisville Metro Council chambers.

The internships will be offered again this fall, said Sherri Wallace, the professor who selects the junior and senior applicants based on academic credentials and job readiness.

Wallace called the internships a positive experience, granting students a chance to observe "policymaking from the point of view of the decision-makers" and to marry theory with practice.

"Just seeing politics in action is very beneficial," she said.



Talk may be cheap, but college isn't

Sara Goldrick-Rab advocated for a complete overhaul of the country's financial aid system during a talk for the University of Louisville's 2018 Grawemeyer Awards lecture series.

Goldrick-Rab is the 2018 winner of the Grawemeyer Award in Education for her book "Paying the Price: College Costs, Financial Aid and the Betrayal of the American Dream."

The University of Louisville honors the power of great ideas through the annual awards, created by UofL alumnus and philanthropist Charles Grawemeyer.

Along with Goldrick-Rab, the 2018 winners were Bent Sorensen, music composition; James H. Cone, religion; Scott Straus, ideas improving world order; and Robert Sternberg, psychology. All spoke during the April lecture series.