

Jaira J. Harrington
Senior Political Science major
Spelman College

This proposal is to request funding for an internship experience with the Sierra Club for 14 weeks from late January through April, spring semester 2007. The funding would support a 10-15 hour workweek, travel and housing for the unpaid position of Community Organizing Intern.

The Sierra Club, the oldest and largest environmental advocacy organization in the country, has been active in promoting the expansion of public transportation options in Atlanta. The internship to which I have been assigned will focus on community awareness and involvement in the proposed "Beltline" rail service. This railway seeks to provide the Atlanta community with transportation alternatives, support expansion of green space in the metropolitan area, and reduce the number of cars on the road. I would be responsible for policy research as well.

Also, the Sierra Club hopes to further engage the Atlanta University Center, which includes Spelman College and Morehouse College, to become more active in environmental advocacy. As an intern, I would be responsible for organizing an event to target this college community to which I belong. This is a pilot project for the Sierra Club internship program. I hope to nurture a long-term relationship between the Atlanta University Center and the Sierra Club. I would be able to provide a report documenting the step taken to creating the event.

The internship with the Sierra Club would be an ideal position because this coming semester I will be engaged in coursework that focuses on Environmental Policy and Politics. This internship would be an excellent way to combine coursework with practical experience. Also, I have garnered public policy experience in multiple arenas including international, federal and local work, but I have yet to solely focus on environmental issues and community organizing. I consider this internship to be the perfect opportunity for such an experience.

My future career goals include attending a PhD program in Political Science and Public Policy within the next few years. I hope to focus on the relationship between economic development and environmental sustainability in minority communities. This Beltline project in Atlanta focuses on all facets of my interest. The information that I could gain could prove to be invaluable.

For this internship, I am requesting the full amount of \$1500. I am asking for the amount of \$100 allocated for each week of the 14-week experience. This semester I will be living off-campus, thus I am requesting an additional \$100 to defray travel expenses to and from headquarters and various field work sites.