



Within the first week of my tenure at the Consulate, it became very apparent to me how much their interns are valued. They are given access to resources that are central to the workings of the Canadian federal government, and are trusted in such an intimate way that gives their work a much more personal meaning, beyond the needs of the Consulate itself. I feel as if my work is valued not just by the Consulate, but by the government and everyday Canadians alike, because everything I do supports Canada and its many interests. It is a great feeling knowing that the work you do can benefit many people, and that that work is valued and meaningful both for you and for those who believe in you.

I usually focus on energy-related work at the Consulate, particularly in relation to the Pacific Northwest and the west coast. One of Canada's primary interests is energy, and the geography and infrastructure of this region can offer a lot in the way of trade and development that is beneficial for both the United States and Canada, as well as other countries and regions. I also do work on EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion), which I find very rewarding and equally as important for both countries. The need for EDI is clear, so I know that the value of my work extends beyond my internship and continually educates me in all areas of life, and I am grateful for that. I feel that my contributions have had positive impacts on supporting the missions of the Government of Canada, and I know that future interns will feel the same. It is such a great and unique opportunity offered in conjunction between the Consulate and the WWU Center for Canadian-American Studies, and I am confident that this connection between these two institutions will grow and strengthen the broader connections between the Pacific Northwest region and Canada.

I have learned so much about Canada, their foreign affairs, and their relationships to the United States, and it has greatly deepened my motivation for pursuing a career in this field. Before this internship, I basically had no idea what a Foreign Service Officer was, but now I can firmly say that I am set on becoming one. As such, I look forward to seeing this internship and C/AM grow, as I have been seeing and experiencing compelling proof that people are becoming more aware of and wanting to learn more about the very special connection between Canada and the United States that this internship highlights so well.