**Quotes from Austin Legislative Interns.** Below are selected comments from final reports and essays on the 88th Texas Legislature January 10 – May 29, 2023

* “My legislative experience has taught me the importance of compromise and collaboration.”
* “If we truly would like to see change in the state and nation, it is up to us to make the change.”
* “Our democratic system works, but if we don’t choose the proper people, we must accept the consequences of our actions.”
* “I saw firsthand how many people exercise their first constitutional amendment and speak to legislative offices to advocate and discuss their concerns.”
* “This internship gave me the opportunity to create many new connections in a way that I never thought I would.”
* “I have had the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge I gained in my political science courses to understand the workings of the legislative branch of government.”
* “It was interesting to weigh and compare what holds more significance in the Texas Legislature - the power of politics or the power of democracy.”
* “I now have no problem talking to people I do not know, whether that be in the elevator, hallways, or in offices. I am definitely comfortable putting myself out there.”
* “One can take dozens of political science courses, have a passion for government, and become involved with government, but it will never compare to seeing how everything works inside the Capitol.”
* “Communication, as I have come to discover, is the key to success in the Capitol.”
* “I have been able to see how members of the House and the Senate within the Texas Capitol work to build coalitions and negotiate compromises in order to advance their policy priorities.”
* “Interning at the Capitol has been a unique experience . . . It made me realize that I want to center my career around public policy.”
* “The opportunities are there for interns in this program. It is just a matter of are you willing to put yourself out there and learn from people who have established their position in the field.”
* “Seeing people participate in the political process by engaging in peaceful protests and giving their testimony on specific bills, and how they would impact them was incredible.”
* “Whether it is living in a new city by yourself or with a roommate, or learning first-hand how everything works inside the Capitol, this internship is something any student should want to apply to.”
* “Kindness and respect go a long way.”