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Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
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“SYEP Internship Closing.”

*Approximately 1500 interns, with 20 assigned to the Office of the Governor.
SYEP theme reminds us all, “Tulimata’i lou lumana’i.”*

This second week of August sees approximately 1,500 interns of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) spending the last days within their respective organizations after 7 weeks across the public and private sector.

The Office of the Governor was one of those worksites for 20 SYEP interns across various divisions to include the Main Office (Governor & Lieutenant Governor), Critical Infrastructure Projects (CIP), Protocol Office, Insurance Commissioner’s Office, Manu’a Office, IT/Comms, and Finance Office. Interns were afforded a range of experiences during their stint and were exposed to the inner workings of the Executive Branch’s highest office alongside key leaders and staff members that oversee critical offices, programs, and priorities of the Lemanu and Talauega Administration.

Etevise Ah Loe, a 19-year old 2019 Leone High School graduate with the Lieutenant Governor’s Office passionately described takeaways from her internship:

“It was my experience. I learned a lot about patience when situations are overwhelming. Also, in terms of my own professional skills and helping the public. They (public) come with different issues and emotions and it feels good to see them leave with a smile when they leave knowing they got the help they needed. The skills I gained will allow me to apply how I handle different challenges and future experiences in my everyday life.”

Ms. Ah Loe has future plans to join the military (US Army) due to the diverse career options offered so that she can support her family.

In the final weeks of the internship program, interns were assigned by Lieutenant Governor Talauega Ale to submit reflection essays sharing both their experiences and recommending improvements to their worksites. Ultimately, it was 3 interns whose reflection essays exceeded expectations. Those interns were Ms. Etevisa Ah Loe (Main Office), Mr. Malalalo (Protocol Office), and Ms. Elizabeth Leota (CIP Office). The essay winners were awarded with a gift basket, framed certificates of completion, medallions reminiscent of the Tokyo Olympic medals, and gift cards. The remaining interns also received certificates and gift cards redeemable at Carl's Jr and Nuuli Place Cinemas. Their last day concluded with a special intern appreciation luncheon with the Chief of Staff and staffers.

“Congratulations to all of our SYEP interns for a job well done! We wish you all of the best on your educational and professional endeavors. As this year’s SYEP theme reminds us all, Tulumata’i lou lumana’i,” remarked the Acting Governor.

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