

# INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

## Zakery Wiles

**Graduation Semester & Year:** Spring '26

**Semester & Year of Internship:** Summer '24

**Major:** Public Policy & Political Science

**Hobbies:** Reading, Volunteering, Politics, Music, Writing

**Campus Activities:** Senate Vice President: Student Government Association (SGA), Social Media Chair: Pitt Greensburg Democrats, Vice President: Pre-Law Society, Secretary: GSA

**Future Plans/Career Goals:** Legislative Assistant on Capitol Hill, Communications Director, Chief of Staff

**Hometown:** New Stanton, PA



- **Internship (company/your title):**  
Office of US Representative Oye Owolewa/Congressional Legislative Intern
- **How did you find your internship?**  
I actually found this internship through the Indeed app.
- **What were your duties?**
  - Press Releases: Authored and distributed press releases to media outlets, ensuring accurate and timely dissemination of information.
  - Social Media Management: Maintained and managed social media profiles, increasing engagement and visibility.
  - Legislative Research: Conducted thorough research on human rights legislation, preparing detailed reports and analysis.
  - Capitol Hill Collaboration: Collaborated with legislators and advocacy groups on Capitol Hill to support and advance human rights initiatives.
- **How many hours per week were you at your internship site?**  
30-32 hours per week
- **What did you enjoy most about your internship?**  
I think the most enjoyable part of my internship is seeing the inner workings of government. I have made numerous connections that will help me later in my career.
- **What was the most difficult aspect of the internship?**  
The most difficult aspect of my internship was definitely having an open mind for bipartisanship.
- **How did your experience at UPG and in the Political Science & Public Policy departments prepare you for your internship?**  
My experience at Pitt-Greensburg, particularly within my political science major, was instrumental in preparing me for my internship with Representative Oye. The comprehensive political science coursework provided a strong foundation in understanding political systems, public policy, and human rights issues. Courses such as "American Government," "Public Policy," and "Political Communication" were especially relevant, equipping me with the knowledge necessary to navigate legislative matters effectively.

(cont.)

The rigorous research projects I undertook during my studies honed my ability to conduct detailed and accurate legislative research. This skill proved invaluable when I was tasked with researching human rights legislation for collaboration efforts on Capitol Hill. The critical thinking and analytical skills I developed allowed me to analyze complex legislative documents and understand their implications, which was a crucial aspect of my internship duties.

Additionally, writing numerous research papers and participating in class discussions significantly improved my ability to communicate complex ideas clearly and persuasively. This was essential for crafting compelling press releases and managing social media content for Representative Oye. My involvement in student government and political science clubs provided practical experience in political advocacy and organizing, mirroring the collaborative environment of working on Capitol Hill.

- **How has your internship prepared you for a career?**

This internship has solidified for me that I made the right decision on my major and career path. This internship for me hasn't felt like a job due to my passion for the field I am in.

- **What recommendations do you have for other students about doing an internship?**

I have one recommendation... Do It! This has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my time in college. Feel free to connect with me or Dr. Brightwell about The Washington Center and how it fits in your career path.

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