



**Written Interested Party Testimony of David M. Anderson, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President, State Relations, The Washington Center
Ohio House Finance Committee
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Chair Oelslager, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Crawley, and Members of the House Finance Committee, it is a privilege to provide written interested party testimony on behalf of The Washington Center.

My name is David Anderson. I am Senior Vice President, State Relations at The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars. I take additional pride in working with the state legislature in Ohio. Although I am a native of New Jersey, my first job out of graduate school was a Visiting Assistant Professor position in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Cincinnati, where I taught ethics, political philosophy, and other courses for two years.

The Washington Center has partnered with Ohio for over 20 years. Students from private and public colleges and universities receive state scholarships to participate in our program. We have enrolled over 1,900 students with state scholarships since the partnership began. The Washington Center is located in Washington D.C. and was founded in 1975. We are the largest, independent, nonprofit experiential education organization in the United States.

The Washington Center has played a crucial role in helping students achieve career readiness by connecting motivated students with companies, organizations, congressional offices and federal agencies that exemplify the values of leadership and community service. Nearly all students who participate in our internship program receive academic credit for their semester or summer term in Washington D.C., as we have cooperative agreements with several hundred colleges and universities throughout the United States. After our program, students return to their home states and become vibrant, contributing members of their states' economy.

The Washington Center is the bridge between higher education and professional careers—leveraging all of what D.C. has to offer in order to provide dynamic, experiential learning opportunities to empower and motivate young people to become engaged global citizens.

In our Academic Internship Program, students intern 4 days per week at one of the many private companies, nonprofit organizations, congressional offices, and federal agencies with whom we partner. The students will also take an evening course one night per week. On Fridays, students participate in what we call the LEAD Colloquium. LEAD includes the Simpson-Mineta Leaders Series, Career Readiness Modules, and Professional Track/Career Exploration Days.

When Ohio students come to Washington for their internship, they head back to Ohio with business capital, political capital, and civic capital. Even if they virtually participate in our program from Ohio, they still have developed the knowledge, skills, and connections that will assist in building their careers.



As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have adapted our organization to address the major challenges before us. Our president, Chris Norton, sent all of our Spring 2020 students home on March 21, 2020. We were able to successfully convert most of our program to a virtual program for the rest of the semester so that students were still able to participate and gain valuable internship experience, and we issued partial refunds for housing. Our summer program was fully virtual, where students completed their internships, classes, and their Friday career readiness training sessions online. By Fall 2020, we implemented a hybrid program where students had the option to do the program virtually or to come to Washington and stay in our housing, although we restricted our apartments which accommodate four students to two students – namely one student per bedroom and bathroom. In Fall 2020 and Spring 2021, students who come to D.C. have, for the most part, still done their internships virtually.

In Ohio, we are proud to have worked with over 30 schools throughout our decades-long partnership with the state. The public universities that have sent us students in the last five years include: Bowling Green State University, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Toledo, Wright State University, and Youngstown State University.

The private colleges and universities that have sent us students in the last five years include: Baldwin Wallace University, Capital University, Case Western Reserve University, Hiram College, John Carroll University, Marietta College, Ohio Northern University, The University of Findlay, Tiffin University, University of Dayton, University of Mount Union, Walsh University, and Xavier University.

We also recently established a partnership with Denison University, and were able to enroll some of their students in our program during FY 20 and FY 21.

In FY 19, we enrolled 65 Ohio students; and in FY 20 we enrolled 51 Ohio students, 11 of which were funded by The Washington Center. In Summer 2020, all students participated virtually from Ohio, whereas in the Fall and Spring the division was almost 50/50. In FY 19 and FY 20, TWC's enrollment was 72% private university students and 28% public university students.

We are asking the state legislature for \$300,000 per year in the FY22-23 biennium budget for a total of \$600,000. This request is a \$200,000 increase from our current appropriation of \$100,000 but is only a \$55,000 increase from what was our standard appropriation of \$245,000 for many years. This funding is used to administer scholarships to students who enroll in The Washington Center program. With a \$300,000 appropriation for the next two years, we expect 90-100 Ohio students could enroll each year, depending on scholarship levels. An increased appropriation would help expand the program to more Ohio students and give these students access to a wide network of internship opportunities.

State-funded scholarships for Ohio students are currently awarded at the \$2,300 level per student for the fall and spring semesters and at the \$4,000 level per student for the summer term. Typically, students from Ohio attending public universities need the most financial aid to offset the difference in cost. While some public university students may be able to enroll in our program with a \$2,300 or \$4,000 scholarship, the scholarships are generally too low to attract



many public university students. As a result, we will take measures to increase the scholarship levels for public university students.

The funds we are requesting, of course, would not be available until the Fall 2021 term. It is our hope that the COVID-19 pandemic will have largely subsided by then, and that we can return to full occupancy in our Residential and Academic Facility.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony to the House Finance Committee. We are proud of our relationship with the state of Ohio and Ohio's public and private colleges and universities. Thank you for your past support of The Washington Center and consideration of this appropriation request.