

DALLAS MAYOR'S OFFICE

A Learning Experience for DBU Political Science Interns



Left to right: DBU senior Lance McCaskill, SMU student Grant Heimer, Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert, DBU sophomore Lindsey Adams, and DBU senior Katie Spires.

During the 2010 spring semester, three DBU students, Lindsey Adams, Lance McCaskill, and Katie Spires, participated in an internship program with the Dallas Mayor's office. The three students served as a requirement for POLS 3313, Internship in Political Science. The students spent 15 hours per week for 14 weeks at Dallas City Hall working directly with council members.

DBU sophomore Lindsey Adams interned with Gaytha F. Davis, Special Events and Intern Coordinator for the city of Dallas. During her internship, Adams worked closely with Dallas First Lady Laura Leppert on the DallasKIDSRead program, which also involved former Dallas Cowboy Ken Hamlin. Additionally, Adams aided in the planning of Dallas City Council member Steve Salazar's District 6 Senior Celebration, Mrs. Leppert's Passport to Health, as well as World Kidney Day, which included spokespersons former Dallas Cowboy Everson Walls and current Tampa Bay Buccaneer Michael Bennett.

DBU senior Lance McCaskill worked alongside Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine Caraway to compile geographic and informational data

on all churches within District 4. McCaskill also helped organize an opportunity for kids to learn through the Kids Art Workshop in Deep Ellum. In addition to these projects, McCaskill assisted with the Dallas Youth Council Colleges and Civil Rights Tour, which allowed 370 underprivileged students to travel to Memphis, Tennessee, to visit the National Civil Rights Museum and Lemoyne-Owen College.

DBU senior Katie Spires interned with Dallas City Council member Tennell Atkins, who serves District 8. Part of Spires' responsibilities included keeping records and compiling data from meetings and other important events. She also helped with the Graffiti WipeOut event, an effort to eliminate graffiti and trash from the city of Dallas, by producing promotional materials, taking pictures, and organizing various awards. Spires' largest event was "An Evening of Classics: Dallas for Haiti," at which she worked to raise support from businesses and organizations for those suffering from the earthquake in Haiti.

McCaskill reflected, "This learning experience has exceeded merely teaching me about how the city of Dallas and municipal government operates, but has exposed me to the issues that our city, nation, and world face on a daily basis."

*Written by
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