Social Justice Internship Community Partner Opportunities, Summer 2023

1. AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) in Central Iowa with Courtney Dufford ‘14

AMOS is a broad-based organization of faith congregations, neighborhood associations, and nonprofits working together to develop citizen leaders, strengthen community institutions, and advocate on the issues important to families. AMOS leaders engage in local politics, building relationships across lines of race, income, citizenship status, geography, and religion in Des Moines and surrounding suburbs, Ames, and rural Polk, Story, and Warren counties.

AMOS has a 25-year track record of success in Central Iowa. Significant victories include a children's crisis mental health system, initiating Let’s Talk- a restorative justice mediation program in Des Moines Public Schools, leveraging funding for the Lauridsen Skatepark in Des Moines- the country’s largest open-air skatepark, and creating Project IOWA- a workforce intermediary that has trained and placed over 700 formerly impoverished central Iowa residents into career track, living wage jobs. AMOS is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the nation’s oldest and largest community organizing network.

This 8-10 week internship is an opportunity to engage in local politics and learn and practice tools of social change such as 1-1 relational meetings, small group “house meetings”, research actions with power people and issue experts, and learning how to conduct a power analysis. The intern will work with experienced organizers and diverse community leaders on a variety of issue campaigns and strategies.

An ideal intern candidate is entrepreneurial, curious about diverse peoples and how community systems are organized, and willing to learn. Limited public transportation in Central Iowa makes access to a car a requirement. [AMOS Handshake link](#).

2. Binger Center for New Americans, University of Minnesota Law School with Sarah Brenes, Steve Meili, Linus Chan, Mahmoud Ahmed, Nadia Anguiano-Wehde, Seiko Shastri, Mackenzie Heinrichs

The James H. Binger Center for New Americans is a clinical program at the University of Minnesota Law School that works collaboratively with partner organizations to help expand representation to non-citizens facing removal proceedings and pursues strategic federal court litigation to improve laws and policy for immigrants and mitigate harsh potential policies. The Binger Center also engages in education and outreach to immigrant and refugee communities.

Interns will work with Binger Center faculty and staff. Interns will be responsible for supporting legal and educational outreach to the immigrant community. This will include supporting our legal team with various types of intakes and follow-up for those seeking assistance. Duties may include working with ongoing cases, research, policy campaigns, and day-to-day support in all types of immigration cases. Policy work may focus on shaping new immigration-related laws or regulations at both the federal and state levels. Litigation support may include interviewing clients and drafting declarations, researching state and federal statutes, and compiling materials on human rights practices or other matters for use in immigration cases.

To qualify for the internships, students should ideally be able to speak Spanish or another second language and be interested in immigration law, education, and policy. Flexibility and commitment to access and support for immigrants are also needed. The internships will be full time from June to August. Students will have an amazing opportunity to learn about cutting edge immigration work from individuals.
who are deeply committed to it, as well as the chance to contribute to implementing policies with the potential to change people’s lives. Binger Center Handshake link

3. IAF Northwest – Community, Race & Health Equity Organizing, Missoula MT or Portland OR, with Lisa Davey, Gabriel Pendas and Joe Chrastil ’78

The IAF Northwest provides support and organizing assistance to its 9 affiliated organizations in WA, OR, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The affiliates unite diverse groups of religious, education, health, labor and community organizations around shared values: the inherent sacredness of all people - demanding that they be treated with dignity and respect – and the common good. Organizing practices are designed to acknowledge each person’s uniqueness, break down biases and stereotypes, invest in leadership capacity, and create relational trust that leads to action addressing the systemic causes of injustice.

The IAF Northwest and its affiliates have a long list of successful campaigns addressing immigrant detentions, housing access, green jobs, sick leave, transportation and police accountability, to name a few. The organization has also developed two major regional initiatives. The Health Equity Organizing Initiative includes student organizing on several campuses, training for family medicine residents, and patient & staff organizing at low-income community health centers. Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization is an initiative based in partnerships with local tribes and Native-led organizations that equips non-Indigenous people to become respectful and active partners in addressing the ongoing experience of colonization.

The internship is designed to provide opportunities for exploring potential careers in community organizing. Interns will learn and practice the basics of IAF organizing; building "power with"; doing relational meetings; conducting power analyses; running effective campaigns, etc. They will be given opportunities to work on local issue campaigns, participate in health equity organizing efforts, and/or support the training and relationship building related to the Wrestling with the Truth initiative. IAF NW Handshake link.

4. Immigrant Law Center of MN, with Jenny Stohl Powell ’89, Robyn Meyer-Thompson, and Veena Iyer

There are exciting opportunities to build greater inclusion and equity in immigration law and policy in Minnesota, working both with individuals and organizations at local and national levels. The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota is the State’s largest provider of free legal services for diverse low-income immigrant and refugee communities.

Interns will report to Robyn Meyer-Thompson, Veena Iyer, and our pro bono manager at the ILCM and will be responsible for supporting legal representation to detained immigrants, educational outreach to the immigrant community, supporting ILCM’s pro bono work, and working on current advocacy and strategic initiatives.

Each volunteer term will begin with an assessment of both the student’s individual goals and the areas of highest need in the immigrant and refugee communities. Often this will include supporting our legal team with several types of intakes and follow-up for those seeking legal assistance. Duties may include working with on-going cases, research, day-to-day support in pro bono immigration cases, and conducting research on advocacy and strategic initiative projects. Interns may also work on the Minnesota Detention Project, which provides free legal screenings to unrepresented detained immigrants in deportation proceedings. These screenings identify potential relief, and evaluate if there are free, full-representation legal services available for the respondent. Interns may also work on other legal, advocacy, and strategic
projects depending on current office needs.

To qualify for the internship, students should ideally speak Spanish, Somali or Hmong and be interested in immigration law, education and policy. Flexibility and commitment to fair treatment and support for immigrants are also needed. The internships will be full time from June to August. Students will have an amazing opportunity to learn about essential immigration legal work from professionals who are deeply committed to it and work directly with clients to improve their immigration status. [ILCM Handshake link]

5. ISAIAH Faith-based Community Organizing with Alexa Horwart, JaNaé Bates, Elliot Altbaum, Brian Fullman, or Kathryn Lozada ‘12

ISAIAH is a political home for people of faith and good will to work collectively for racial, economic, and environmental justice in Minnesota. ISAIAH is grounded in using the principles and practices of community-based organizing to achieve its mission. The primary strategy of ISAIAH is to develop the capacity and leadership of people to be agents of change in their communities and in Minnesota. ISAIAH is statewide, connecting people of different faiths, races, and backgrounds through our congregational organizing, Muslim Coalition, the Black Barbershop and Church Cooperative (BBCC), Kids Count on Us, and the Young Adult Coalition, which is a political home for students, renters, and anyone under the age of 40 who wants to organize together for climate, racial, and economic justice.

Organizing Internship

ISAIAH has been very involved in addressing climate change and public safety, raising the minimum wage, maintaining funding for public health care programs, and fighting for immigrants without documentation to be able to gain a driver's license. This internship would work with the Southern MN congregational organizing team, BBCC, or with the Young Adult Coalition. This work will likely include:

• Work with grassroots leaders in multiple congregations to hold 1-1 and/or small group meetings around people’s experiences of issues such as housing, climate, immigration, healthcare, etc. • Work with the young adult coalition on climate change, rent stabilization, and public safety campaigns that can include research visits with local officials and partners, public actions, and shaping the narrative through social media.

The full-time organizing intern will work over an 8-10 week period. Depending on the intern’s interests and organizational priorities, the intern could be based in the Twin Cities, Northfield, St Cloud, or other Greater MN cities. They must have access to a car, if not in a location with adequate public transportation. Ability to speak Spanish is a plus but not required.

Communications Internship

The Communications Intern will work directly with ISAIAH’s Communications Director. The intern will be trained on executing strategic communications in social justice movement spaces by using narrative shifting language and storytelling across race, class, and religion.

The skills to be potentially exercised and developed include:

• Written and verbal communications
• Copy editing
• Social media skills (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram)
• Traditional media and press relations (print, radio and television)
• Blogging
• Storytelling and narrative shifting
• Photography and videography
• Digital organizing

The full-time communications intern will work over an 8-10 week period based in the Twin Cities.
[Isaiah Handshake link.]

6. The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation with Peter Hill ’00 and Matthew Rama

The Pine Ridge Reservation is one of the largest reservations in North America. It encompasses 3,500 square miles of rolling prairie, pine hills, and badlands, and is larger than Rhode Island and Delaware combined. Oglala Lakota County, which makes up the majority of reservation land, is the poorest county in the United States, and there are many reservation-based advocacy organizations and nonprofits making a positive difference in the communities.

Peter Hill ’00 and Matthew Rama have been living and working on the reservation for decades. They work with the Lakota Immersion Childcare Program, founded by Peter in 2012. Interns with a diverse set of skills work on some of their many projects and initiatives, such as helping to design curriculum, writing grants, and doing program outreach and publicity. Technology skills and artistic abilities are also needed to help create Lakota online multimedia programs. An eagerness to pitch in and help where needed is the most important quality we seek in an intern. Obviously, Lakota language knowledge is not a prerequisite, although you will likely pick up a lot while you’re here! [Pine Ridge Handshake link.]

7. TakeAction Minnesota, Twin Cities, with River Fiocco ’20 and Walter Fromm

TakeAction Minnesota works year-round to make change that matters to Minnesotans by organizing at the grassroots, building dynamic and effective coalitions, educating voters, endorsing and electing progressive candidates, impacting state and local policy, and winning issue campaigns. Our work is focused on winning tangible victories that improve people’s lives and building the progressive movement to expand what is politically possible. Currently, we’re working on winning paid sick & safe time for all, building towards a Green New Deal for MN, and electing progressive candidates up and down the ballot.

The Movement Politics Internship (Data Track) will fuse leadership development (30%); voter outreach and volunteer leadership (50%); and analytical skills around data management (20%). Assisting with our data and field programs, the intern will gain experience in having powerful conversations on the doors and phones, leading volunteers, and developing a data justice framework. Applicants should have experience with (or an aptitude to learn) canvassing and data management skills.

In all our organizing work, we are committed to developing leaders and building capacity. We take the same approach in working with interns; we see it as a chance to help develop the skills and experience of budding organizers who will work side-by-side with us to create social change for years to come. Interns will participate in trainings alongside staff, including trainings both from internal staff and from external trainers who are brought in. And like staff members, interns will have regular individual check ins with their supervisor and will additionally be part of our Movement Politics Fellowship Cohort. Interns will leave this program as qualified candidates for organizing and campaign positions across MN. For more information, you can reach out to walter@takeactionminnesota.org and/or river@takeactionminnesota.org. To apply, go to the [TakeAction Handshake link.]