

Transportation for Illinois Coalition Internship Opportunity

The Transportation For Illinois Coalition (TFIC) is seeking a candidate for a part-time internship opportunity during the spring 2022 semester, with the goal of identifying a candidate that can be hired as permanent full-time staff by TFIC's Managing Director, at the completion of the internship.

The managing director of TFIC, Rebecca Mason, would like to work with Lincoln College because the College's federal designation as a Predominately Black Institution aligns with her goal of increasing diversity within the transportation industry.

Background on TFIC

The Transportation For Illinois Coalition is a consortium of 18 statewide and 28 local and regional transportation-related professional organizations.

The organization advocates at the state and national level to support transportation infrastructure in Illinois.

From its origin as the railroad capital of the nation and its development as the hub of major east-west interstate highways, to hosting one of the world's busiest airports and serving as a vital link for the nation's water traffic, Illinois has served as the central conduit for the nation's commerce. Thus, the economies of Illinois and the nation are inextricably related.

Illinois' transportation system plays a pivotal role in the nation's ability to move goods and people because of its geographic location and extensive road, rail, airport, and waterway networks. Maintaining its role as the transportation hub of the nation is a vital economic strategy for Illinois. Challenges to the quality and capacity of the Illinois transportation system are extensive and rising.

Internship

The Internship will run January through May 2022, and require approximately 20 hours per week. Rate of pay will be \$15 per hour during the internship.

The intern's role will include social media and website communications; meeting planning and attendance with state and federal policymakers; and working collaboratively with the Managing Director and committees to develop messaging, meeting agendas, and communications strategies. As they grow into the role, the new staff person will have an opportunity to engage in public speaking opportunities or take a bigger lead on communications or legislative strategy discussions and implementation.

The intern will be expected to be in Springfield during the early part of the internship in order to jumpstart the working relationship. Once that relationship has been established, the intern could work remotely from Lincoln for half or more of their work week. The intern will need to arrange transportation to Springfield when required, which can be by train if they do not have access to an automobile.

The intern will be through Rebecca Mason's firm, Filson/Gordon Associates, and will be expected to work with other clients as well as TFIC, as needed.

If the candidate successfully completes the internship, it is anticipated that they will be hired by Filson/Gordon Associates at a competitive pay rate that is significantly above the internship rate.

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Profile for Intern

- Completion of undergraduate degree by May 2022.
- Interest in communications:
 - Understanding of how communications can influence policy
 - Collaborative work to identify the best message and identify possible counter messages
 - Collaboratively put together communications strategy, including platforms/tools and timing
- Interest in diving into issues
 - Desire to understand details of the client's perspective and also consider alternative perspectives so that client can be prepared
 - Ability to discuss details of issues with policymakers
- Enjoys working with and meeting new people
- Strategic thinker
- Strong writing skills with an emphasis on understanding and communicating complex public policy issues
- Willingness to help with administrative tasks (minutes, taking notes)

A successful candidate should be comfortable meeting and communicating with persons of diverse backgrounds, including elected officials at the local, state and federal level, as well as representatives of business, professional and labor organizations and their constituencies.

The individual should be outgoing and enjoy meeting new people/seeing different parts of the state. They should be prepared to submit writing samples that indicate ability to communicate concisely and clearly. The candidate should have an interest in public policy or the legislative process but does not need to have extensively studied government.

A critical aspect of the position will be working collaboratively on messaging, strategy, and communications tools and they should bring their diverse perspective to collaborating on client messaging and strategy.

Majors that could lead to success include Liberal Arts, Law, Community and Human Services, Organizational Leadership, Radio, Television and New Media and Business Management. Extracurricular activities that demonstrate leadership skills and discipline, such as sports, student government, residence hall assistantships and student mentoring will be considered positively. The candidate should enjoy traveling around Illinois and meeting new people to develop relationships. A record as a student athlete or through other extracurricular activities that demonstrates a willingness to travel and an understanding of the importance of being on time and prepared to work under challenging conditions will be viewed positively.

If hired permanently, the candidate will need to have transportation to various meetings around the state or live in the Springfield area.

Selection Process

Once the field of candidates has been narrowed to two to three finalists, TFIC members will have the opportunity to participate in an interview and/or informal meet and greet with the finalists before a final hiring decision is made.