



*Sheena Black (Guam) - 2006*

“To conclude APLP, I opted to do an internship at the U.S. Commercial Service Ho Chi Minh City. My time in Vietnam was pivotal to my career development. When entering APLP, I was determined to become a Public Diplomacy Foreign Service Officer. My internship allotted me first hand experience in my desired career lifestyle, the realistic responsibilities of a Foreign Service Officer, international public relations and journalism.

Having a glimpse into the lifestyle that I was dedicatedly streamlined toward, made me realize that I was on the wrong path. My internship was crucial in my decision to reassess my immediate career choices. It helped me fine tune what was truly important to me.

Moreover, it took the curriculum from theoretical to realistic. I was able to discuss topics and employ concepts that we learned about in the classroom. The caliber of my internship has also enhanced my resume. In every interview that I have had since leaving Vietnam, the interviewer has concentrated on this experience.

Prior to leaving for my internship, I was connected with previous APLP/U.S. Commercial Service interns, as well as APLP alum in Vietnam. These individuals went above and beyond to ensure that I was prepared for the cultural transition and work demands. Even before I arrived in the country, I had points of contact and a support network created from APLP contacts alone.

My internship opportunity allowed me to connect with both previous and present cohorts and build solid connections with them. Since my return, I have had the opportunity to talk about my experiences with a few of the current participants. Lastly, Christina Monroe really took the initiative to ensure that I was safe, comfortable and happy throughout my entire internship. My APLP internship experience was one of the most enjoyable opportunities I have had thus far. She helped contribute to that.”