



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Hamden Government Center
2750 Dixwell Ave
Hamden, CT 06518
Tel: (203) 287-7100
Fax: (203) 287-7101

Curt Balzano Leng
Mayor

Media Release

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Contact: Patrick J. Donnelly
203-287-7100

TOWN OF HAMDEN CONGRATULATES

2015 QUINNIPIAC PRESIDENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWS

HAMDEN – Mayor Curt Balzano Leng is very pleased to announce the culmination of the 2015 Quinnipiac Presidential Public Service Fellowship. The Fellowship program, a collaborative effort between the Town and Quinnipiac, has been active since 2003. The program allows exemplary Quinnipiac students a chance to engage in a hands-on work experience across multiple departments within the Town. Each student is assigned a mentor-supervisor who oversees project assignments and offers guidance on the functions of municipal government. Chief of Staff, Julie Smith, has been the Town’s coordinator of this program and the placement of students since she served as Deputy Chief Administrative Officer.

This year’s fellows are: Jason Culmone of Wallingford, who was assigned to Youth Services; Bradley Macdowall of Hamden, who worked on community relations in the Mayor’s Office; Marc Steinberg of Riverside, who assisted with policy development in the Mayor’s Office; Alexa Panayotakis of Hamden, who was placed in economic development; and Meg Wilson of Pequannock, N.J., who was stationed in police services.

Throughout the summer the Fellows were assigned to a number of different projects within their respective departments, some of which have already been completed and implemented. Marc Steinberg, one of the Fellows assigned to the Mayor’s Office,

was an instrumental member of the team that put together the 2015 Hamden Farmer's markets. Steinberg also spent time working with FEMA representatives to finalize aid reimbursement packages related to prior winter emergencies. "It was very eye-opening to work closely with members of the Mayor's Staff, and I really enjoyed being able to positively contribute on such important projects like the Farmer's Market and FEMA reimbursements."

Jason Culmone, the Fellow assigned to the Youth Services Department, was an enormous help towards the planning and organization of the 2015 National Night Out celebration on August 4th. The amount of preparation and planning associated with National Night Out is staggering, and the Youth Services department genuinely thanks Jason for all of his hard-work. When asked about his experiences this summer, Jason said, "The experience I had with the Youth Services Bureau was invaluable to me as a political science major. It was the perfect "outside the classroom" complement to my classwork that allowed me to get real hands-on learning within local government for the entire summer."

Quinnipiac Political Science Professor and Fellowship coordinator Scott McLean said about the program, "Public service is more challenging than volunteering in community agencies, because it is sometimes such a thankless job. We, as citizens, tend to only connect with public servants if there is a complaint or a problem we want fixed. The Quinnipiac Fellows learned that public servants really need to have a long-term vision for Hamden, while also discovering the tenacity needed to put that vision into action every day."

Mayor Leng described his feelings towards the Fellowship, "I am honored to work with these bright young minds. These students are the future leaders of our communities and I look forward to the 2016 Fellowship. I offer my sincere thanks to the Town of Hamden staff, the 2015 Fellows, and Quinnipiac University for constructing such a successful program."

For further information, please contact Information & Research Officer, Patrick J. Donnelly at (203) 287-7100 or by email at pdonnelly@hamden.com.

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