

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Zakery Wiles

Graduation Semester & Year: Spring '26

Semester & Year of Internship: Summer '25

Major: Public Policy

Minor: Political Science

Hobbies: Reading, Netflix, Civic Advocacy

Campus Activities: Student Government (senate VP), GSA (President), President's Committee

Future Plans/Career Goals: I plan on working in government in some form as either an elected representative or a staffer.

Hometown:

Greensburg, PA



- **Internship (company/your title):**

Keystone Progress Education Fund/Community Organizer Intern

- **How did you find your internship?**

I had a friend who heard about my internship being canceled in Washington, D.C. She sits on the board of Keystone Progress and subsequently offered me an internship.

- **What were your duties?**

I scheduled and worked at voter registration tables at skilled nursing facilities in the Greensburg area. I also served as a designated agent, which is tasked with bringing the completed ballots of the residents to the election office.

- **How many hours per week were you at your internship site?**

20 hours per week. I have since been asked to stay on for the fall semester at a lower hourly requirement to accommodate my school schedule.

- **What did you enjoy most about your internship?**

I enjoyed learning about the disability community by way of civic engagement and the struggles and barriers that these people are fighting behind the scenes. Another fun part was listening to the residents telling me stories, it was nice to just sit and listen at times.

- **What was the most difficult aspect of the internship?**

Keystone Progress Education Fund is a 501C3 organization and as such we aren't allowed to be partisan in any way. As a public policy major, not being able to talk about politics, especially when I disagreed, was challenging for sure.

- **How did your experience at UPG and within your major prepare you for your internship?**

Having my resume being picked apart and put back together by professors, the Career Services team, and in the annual resume contest (through Career Services & Alumni Association) definitely helped my ability to hone my skills into a resume that looks appealing for my internship.

- **How has your internship prepared you for a career?**

This internship showed me that there is more to politics than the hot button issues you hear on the news.

(cont.)

People around the country and in my own backyard are having their voting rights taken away by people who didn't even ask if they wanted to vote. It shows how far our country has to come for everyone to have equal access at the ballot box.

- **What recommendations do you have for other students about doing an internship?**

Do it early! This is my second internship, and I am so glad that I took the jump into them. Most people want their summer to be free from "work" but none of these have felt like a job whatsoever.

✓ By checking this box (or initialing next to it) and emailing this document to the campus Internship Coordinator, I give permission to University of Pittsburgh Greensburg to utilize this document along with the photo provided in media publications such as the UPG website, campus bulletin boards, and additional media outlets.

