Testimonials from previous Bohnett Fellows and employers about The David Bohnett Fellowship Program at UCLA Luskin

EMPLOYERS

Helmi Hisserich, Los Angeles Deputy Mayor, Office of Housing and Economic Development
Describing all three of her Bohnett Fellows as “amazing,” she said: “If we could have hired her Urban Planning student Jamillah Jordan, she could have been put in 25 different positions in the Mayor’s office.”

Robin Kramer, Los Angeles Mayor’s Chief of Staff
“The richness of their scholarly background and training were key assets in working in the Mayor’s Office. UCLA’s part of the partnership is real, from beginning to end – a great design. While most students bring practical experience and maturity, the Bohnett Fellow graduate students are much more able to carry out sophisticated, complex projects; they are more able, have extensive research experience and training, and can ask good questions.”

Jaime de la Vega, Los Angeles Deputy Mayor of Transportation
“The experience was an excellent opportunity for a promising student to build his skill set, learn to manage a boss, learn to work under pressure with impending deadlines, and make the best decisions despite imperfect and uncertain information.”

Joan Sullivan, Los Angeles Deputy Mayor of Education
“The concept behind the program is working. The Fellows expand the capacity of the Mayor’s office and expose students to various aspects of government and public service experience that inspires and prepares them for next steps.”

ALUMNI

Nahtahna Cabanas, Social Welfare  ’13
“I have learned that it takes a unified coalition – state legislatures, big city Mayors, local nonprofits, and concerned parents — to demand educational equity. I have learned the fragility of policy reform, which can take eight years to implement and a single election to dismantle. I have learned the legitimacy of position and that politics is not always a game between good and evil, but a game between valid perspectives.”

Lila Hayatdavoudi, Public Policy  ’13
“I can honestly say that working as a Bohnett Fellow in the Mayor’s Office has been one of the most rewarding educational and professional experiences of my life. As the year winds down, I
am leaving with many memories and several long-lasting relationships – Deputy Mayor Adams, in particular, has been, and I hope continues to be, an amazing mentor. I now have a greater understanding of how city government operates, as well as a newfound respect for the City staff – or, more appropriately, City “family” – who work tirelessly on the issues that are the most important to Angelenos.”

Carter Rubin, Urban Planning ’13
“I believe this fellowship has contributed immensely to my job prospects for after graduation. I’ve made more professional connections than I can keep track of with Mayor’s staff, departmental staff, deputy mayors, department general managers, commissioners and board members, city council members and their staffs, as well as members of the non-profit and private sectors. I think all of these relationships will prove very important in my professional development over the coming decades.”