

NLC MUTUAL BOARD INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS

Board Internship Overview

NLC Mutual Insurance Company proudly offers an annual board internship for college students to learn about the Company's Board of Directors while also developing an understanding of State Municipal Leagues and Municipal Insurance Risk Pools. The selected intern has the opportunity to meet with NLC Mutual Board Members who serve as State Municipal League Executive Directors and Municipal Insurance Risk Pool Directors. This program includes a visit to a member State Municipal League and/or member Risk Pool and a trip to the Summer Board Meeting, where the intern gains first-hand experience of board operations. Each year interns are introduced to diverse career paths within the insurance and local government sectors, fostering professional growth and understanding. NLC Mutual is committed to promoting racial equity and inclusiveness; this internship program is available for students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

2024 Internship Program

Shymir Coakley, rising senior at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, was NLC Mutual's fourth Board Intern. From eight strong candidates, this Maryland resident impressed us with his work experience, extra-curricular activities, strong interests in finance, insurance, mentoring, and "empowering individuals through education and access to resources." His journey with NLC Mutual was marked by enriching experiences and transformative insights.

State Visit to Minnesota

The League of Minnesota Cities and their Insurance Trust hosted the second intern state visit, providing Shymir with three days of meetings, meals, activities, and introductions that thoroughly represented the career opportunities within the state municipal and pooling community. Shymir shared that this visit "proved to be an enriching and transformative experience... that reshaped [his] perspective on insurance and solidified [his] commitment to a future where [he] can contribute actively to community well-being through local governance and strategic insurance practices. The exposure to real-world applications of insurance strategies underscored how [he] can contribute meaningfully to community welfare while pursuing [his] professional aspirations. Witnessing firsthand how policies are crafted and implemented reinforced [his] belief in the transformative power of effective governance and strategic risk management."

Industry Leader Engagement

During his time in Minnesota, Shymir actively participated in office meetings, delved into comprehensive board sessions, and conducted thorough research. He interacted with company employees and fellow board members, including those from the League of Minnesota Cities, National League of Cities, and NLC Mutual Insurance Company. Their openness and willingness to share expertise broadened his understanding and affirmed his interest in pursuing a career in this field post-college.

Additional Engagement

Twelve Board members and staff were selected to meet with Shymir remotely prior to the Summer Board Meeting. These advanced introductions allowed for more engaged conversations on-site for the Summer Board Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. Theresa Kuhns, Executive Director of the Maryland Municipal League generously offered Shymir an opportunity to attend the Maryland Municipal League Conference in Ocean City, MD, which was close to him. Shymir had the unique privilege of attending sessions and meetings for another perspective of member state activities before the Summer Board Meeting. Shymir was also invited to attend the state conference in Texas. Following these experiences, Shymir was a Keynote Speaker for the General Session entitled Bridging Generations: Navigating Challenges and Unlocking Opportunities at the 2024 NLC-RISC Staff Conference in Burlington, Vermont. At this session he was able to share his unique perspective and experience during his engagement with the NLC Mutual & NLC-RISC Membership.

Board Meeting Insights

The discussions and data analyses during the board meetings were particularly eye-opening for Shymir. He gained a profound appreciation for how insurance pooling mechanisms operate within the framework of local governance, influencing policies that directly impact communities. Learning about various strategies and best practices employed by different cities and entities underscores the complexity and significance of this sector.



LMCIT Board Meeting - June 5, 2024

Looking Ahead

The NLC Mutual Board Internship Program continues to empower future leaders by providing them with the tools and experiences necessary to succeed in the insurance and local governance sectors. We look forward to welcoming the 2025 Intern and witnessing their growth and future contributions.