Interns Meet with Congress!

By Dovontay, DaQuan, Sergio, Ava, Jay, Donnell, John, Nathan, and Chanel

On February 19, some of the Project SEARCH interns went to Annapolis, Maryland to visit the Developmental Disability Day at the Legislature. Our class was discussing self-advocacy with our teacher Ashley, so the trip related to our topic. In class we learned that self-advocacy means speaking up for yourself. Ashley also taught us about taking the initiative. This is when you do something first without being asked. Sergio Neal, Tania Peterman, Dovontay Taylor, Chanel Davis, & Heather Weiss went on the trip to talk to their representatives about funding sources & about metro transportation. They also learned about advocating for their rights. In the picture, you can see Chanel, Dovontay, and Ashley with Congressman Tony Knotts. Also, they got to meet the NIH Project SEARCH interns and the Montgomery County Project SEARCH interns & ate lunch with them. It was fun to meet new people from a different Project SEARCH programs.
April 6th and April 7th — Make-up Snow Days

April 8-10 — Spring Break

May 25 — Memorial Day Holiday

June 4th — The Ivymount School Graduation

June 10th — Internship #3 Ends

June 12th — Project SEARCH Smithsonian Graduation

(TGIF) = Thank Goodness It’s PSSI PAYDAY Friday!

By Nathan, Tony, Jay, DaQuan Ava, John, and Donnell

In January, our classroom teacher, Ashley, started teaching us about budgeting and told us about a new project called PSSI Payday. Every two weeks we would get a fake paycheck from Ashley. It helps us understand how to budget our money and how to spend our money wisely.

All 12 interns practiced depositing checks into a spreadsheet that acts as a bank substitute. We fill out time sheets of the hours we spend during the PSSI day (class & internship). We figure out how much money we make by multiplying the number of hours by the number of days.

Ashley even makes us PAY BILLS! Some of the bills we pay are: rent, electricity from Pepco, cellphone from Verizon, internet from Comcast, transportation from WMATA & groceries from Safeway. We also paid for miscellaneous things like pet food, movies, & ice skating.

We learned a lot of things from this little project. We learned the difference between needs & wants. We learned about prioritizing our needs. We also learned the value of money. The most important thing we learned from this project is that money goes quickly. You have to save your money! It takes a lot of money for a person to live by themselves. Thanks to the PSSI Payday project, we'll be able to budget our money.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES
PSSI Interns Hard at Work!
Rotation #3 Internships

Donnell Banks
OFMR
Museum Support Center

John Bogasky
OFMR
National Museum of American History

Jay Cromwell
OFMR Crafts
National Air and Space Museum

Chanel Davis
OCON
Crystal City

Sergeo Neal
OF&A
Crystal City

DaQuan Proctor
Vertebrates/Zoology (Mammals and Birds)
National Museum of Natural History

Tony Scott
OFMR
National Museum of the American Indian

Do vontay Taylor
OPS
Capital Gallery

Nathan Taylor
OFMR
National Portrait Gallery

Ava Thurman
OFMR
S. Dillon Ripley Center

Heather Weiss
SI Archives
Capital Gallery

**Tania Peterman has accepted a job at a childcare center in Silver Spring.
Congratulations, Tania! We’re so proud of you!**