



SGPP INTERNSHIP -
FINAL INTERNSHIP
PROJECT – OPTION 1A

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PA 393, 3 credits

April 23, 2019

My Internship Experience

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS WITH THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION



SAHBA represents the interests of home builders in Southern Arizona. As a government affairs intern, I worked on a local level to monitor and advocate for those in the building industry. Throughout my internship, my objective was to identify current policies, evaluate the significance of the issue, and to advise members on why the topic is of importance. I accomplished this advocacy through research, meetings, and email campaigns.

Research



Primarily, my research was done at my SAHBA desk, pictured above. I had detailed maps of Tucson districts, zoning, and land use; which I used every day. When an issue or policy was presented, I searched and read through local ordinances. With this information, I created an Excel sheet comparing and contrasting the different laws. Another central part of my position was to monitor government meetings. This task usually entailed watching Mayor and Council or zoning meetings for developments in builder related legislation.

Meetings



After I had collected research, I presented the information to one of SAHBA's committees; the boardroom is pictured above. I always created an agenda with a detailed description of the meeting's purpose for the group. Furthermore, I maintained organized agenda minutes documenting conferences. These agenda notes were then placed on the SAHBA website to ensure transparency and openness with all members.

Email Campaigns



Another way in which I reached out to SAHBA's members was through an email campaign website called Constant Contact. Each month I published an email newsletter titled Advocacy Update. The primary goal of this document was to notify members of the most pressing issues affecting the building industry. I worked hard all month to create a visually appealing and educational campaign. To do this, I thoroughly researched matters impacting builders at a local, state, and federal level.

The event that stands out most from my time at SAHBA is the 2019 Home and Patio Show. Twice a year SAHBA puts together a massive builder showcase at the Tucson Convention Center. Companies come from all over the Southwest to promote their businesses at the show. With hundreds of exhibitors and over ten thousand patrons, the 2019 Spring Home Show was incredibly exciting and a huge success.



I spent the majority of my time working at the Home Show in SAHBA's 'Command Station.' This was a large room overlooking the main convention floor. Primarily, I was tasked with ensuring all exhibitors were checked in and had their appropriate passes. It was a sometimes-hectic job as vendors approached all at once, but it allowed me the opportunity to meet a lot of the show participants.



In addition to working at the 'Command Station,' I also worked the 'Will Call' desk. This position required me to organize and present tickets to specific patrons. I also provided directions and maintenance tips for exhibitors. Personally, the 'Will Call' desk allowed me to connect with my fellow SAHBA employees on a more personal level.



The 2019 Spring Home Show was my first experience attending a builder showcase. I was surprised to find such a variety of products and demonstrations. In addition to air conditioning, flooring, metalwork, and other building related companies there were cooking demonstrations and representatives from all over Tucson. Most significantly, I was able to have a conversation with an official from the City of Tucson Police Department about career opportunities. I also had similar discussions with other companies allowing me to expand my job search after graduating from the University of Arizona.