



COLLEGE TO CONGRESS



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"We are creating a pathway for students with financial need to intern on Capitol Hill so Congress is just as diverse as the country it represents." - CEO, Audrey Henson, 2016

COMPANY OVERVIEW

WHAT IS COLLEGE TO CONGRESS?

College to Congress (C2C) is a new nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to creating pathways for students to intern on Capitol Hill who otherwise could not afford to.

WHAT DO WE DO?

C2C provides students an internship in Congress during the busy summer months and pairs students with a mentor from the opposite party. Students are also offered leadership training and seminars focused in advocacy, financial literacy, and interview skills.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

According to an independent report, over 90% of U.S. Members of Congress do not pay their interns. Because of the financial barrier to entry, many young change makers from low-income families are not represented in the law-making process.

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE OUR GOALS?

College to Congress has forged partnerships in the House and the Senate to secure internships for C2C scholarship recipients. By joining our bicameral Congressional Host committee, Members of Congress provide C2C students with internships.

HOW DID WE GET STARTED?

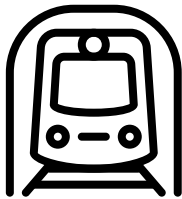
Twenty-seven-year-old Audrey Henson interned on the Hill nearly five years ago. While working two jobs, she faced the reality that interning for free was not putting food on the table. Her dream of impacting the world ended on the steps of the Rayburn building, or so she thought. Henson believed Congress should be just as diverse as the country it represents... and that includes staff. In June 2016, College To Congress was born and she hit the ground running.

WHAT COSTS DOES COLLEGE TO CONGRESS COVER?

We know that interning in DC can really add up. C2C takes into account expenses like food, professional work attire, housing, and transportation. We have broken it down for you below.



\$1,000 for a professional wardrobe



Airfare to and from DC & daily metro benefits



\$50 daily meal stipend



Housing on Capitol Hill



Mentor of the opposite party



CONGRESSIONAL CHAMPIONS

Members of Congress are part of the solution to a complex problem. Members contribute to the success of C2C by opening their office to a C2C intern. As with everything we do, our hill partners are completely bipartisan.

By partnering with College to Congress, we work together to eliminate the barriers faced by underrepresented students who want to serve their country.

Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD) *Co-Chair*

Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI) *Co-Chair*

Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX)

Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX)

Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)

Sen. Cory Book (D-NJ)

Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX)

Rep. Susan Brooks (R-IN)

Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL)

Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA)

Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL)

Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA)

Rep. Charlie Crist (D-FL)

Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX)

Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragan (D-CA)

Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI)

Rep. Mike Doyle (D-PA)

Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ)

Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL)

Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)

Rep. Lujan Grisham (D-NM)

Rep. George Holding (R-NC)

Rep. Will Hurd (R-TX)

Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK)

Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA)

Sen. Angus King (I-ME)

Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)

Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)

Rep. Paul Mitchell (R-MI)

Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL)

Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA)

Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA)

Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX)

Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA)

Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA)

Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA)

Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL)

Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO)

Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR)

Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI)

Rep. Mimi Walters (R-CA)

Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC)

TIMELINE

JUNE 2016

College to Congress was founded in June 2016 as a non-profit providing scholarships and leadership training to Pell-grant students. C2C is headquartered in Washington, DC and was established by a millennial change maker, with the goal of making Congress as diverse as the country it represents.

FEBRUARY 2017

Sixty-one students apply for the first C2C program.

MARCH 2017

WeWork awards Audrey Henson at their first annual Creative Awards. Henson took home the "Incubate Award" for great ideas that need funding.

APRIL 2017

Reps. Steny Hoyer (D) and Fred Upton (R) recognize the power that emanates from educational opportunities and the benefits that accrue from students of various backgrounds. Both leaders sign on as Congressional Host Co-Chairs.

MAY 2017

Partners with Wish Housing, AT&T, Electronic Association, Toyota, and Comcast NBC Universal.

JUNE 2017

Six students selected from across the country start their first day on the Hill.

AUGUST 2017

Senator Angus King signs on as the 40th member of Congress to host a C2C intern

AUDREY HENSON

Founder and CEO of College to Congress.

Audrey began her career as an unpaid intern in the House of Representatives during the Summer of 2012. This internship launched her career in public service and took her from working in Congress to campaigning on some of the most competitive political races of the 2014 and 2016 election cycles. During her time on the Hill, Audrey struggled to support herself, working multiple part-time jobs and taking out student loans. She saw first hand that her fellow cohorts did not face this same adversity. At 26-years-old, Audrey founded College to Congress to ensure other students would not have to endure the financial hardships she faced while breaking into the political arena.

Her idea was simple, create a pathway for students from low-income families to intern on the Hill, free from the financial challenges that limit them. She introduced the idea to Congress and worked tirelessly across the aisle to win support.

Audrey is a native Texan and was later raised in St. Petersburg, Florida. In 2013, she graduated from the University of South Florida with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Theatre performance.





"We believe that socio-economic diversity among Capitol Hill interns and staffers is vitally important to ensuring that representatives and their aides hear all perspectives and are connected with the diverse communities that make up our districts. By becoming more diverse and inclusive to different viewpoints, Congress will be better equipped to meet the challenges facing our country."

-An Op-Ed by Reps. Steny Hoyer & Fred Upton



HUFFPOST

"Henson was shocked to learn a summer in DC averaged nearly \$10,000. For the privileged few, \$10,000 was a drop in the bucket. But for the average American family, it was a major investment that often meant the end of the line." "I always thought the hardest part of the process was getting a job with no connections," says Henson. "But the hardest part is finances."



"I really have two main goals: One is to immediately impact young people's lives," Henson said, "but that's not what really changes the policy coming out of America. What changes the policy is bringing those kids back, and helping them become staffers and move up the ladder, and using those bipartisan connections to reach across the aisle."

WASHINGTON

M A G A Z I N E

"Ultimately, our goal is to help Congress become the representative body it was created to be. That's why simply providing a paid internship is not enough. We have to help our interns land a permanent seat at the table."

ADDITIONAL PRESS MENTIONS

POLITICO

WASHINGTONIAN



**WASHINGTON
BUSINESS JOURNAL**

NEWSFEED

AWARDS

wework

In WeWork's first annual Creator Awards, Audrey Henson took home the "Incubate Award." This award highlights innovative ideas that need funding along with \$36,000 of seed funding. College to Congress competed for against over 1,200 companies who applied.

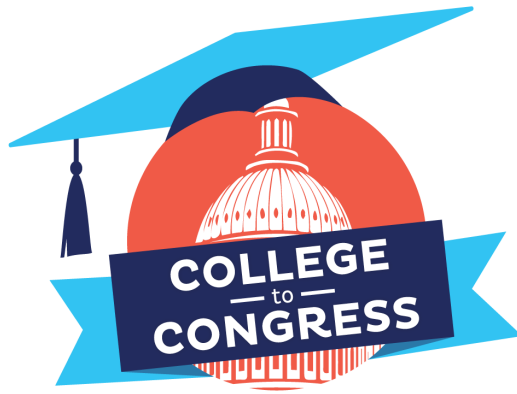


DC Inno

DC Inno's 50 on Fire identifies the hottest companies, organizations and people across a variety of categories, all operating within and around the city's innovation economy. Both College To Congress and Audrey Henson earned a spot on the exclusive 150 finalist list.



MEDIA CONTACT



PRESS INQUIRIES

*Send us an email at press@collegetocongress.org
Give us a call at 202-792-6830*