

My internship with CWEALF has definitely been one of the most rewarding experiences of college so far, particularly in how it has guided my vision of my future and because of the amazing people that I have met along the way. I honestly do not know how I am going to leave in three weeks, as I truly believe that I have found a work environment that can't be topped, and one in which I can really promote change.

CWEALF has such an amazing sense of camaraderie—we even began last staff meeting with a salsa dancing lesson, just dancing and having fun with one another! The office culture is so tremendously friendly and supportive, with everyone keeping their doors open, helping one another, and being open to new ideas and projects. The way that everyone really takes the time to get to know one another and care about one another, in my opinion, makes the office more productive, high-spirited, supportive, and collaborative. I felt welcome at CWEALF from the moment that I stepped through the door, and have received infinitely helpful advice regarding skills development, professional goals, and postgraduate plans. My fellow “CWEALFies” are always willing to provide guidance towards accomplishing professional and policy goals. I feel right at home within the professional and organizational structure, and will be truly sad to leave.

Through my internship with CWEALF, I have learned so much about the policy process, about working for a nonprofit, and even about myself. I have been able to gain firsthand experience within the process of legislative advocacy by working on the Campaign for Paid Family Leave, as well as completing research and outreach efforts. I have been *extremely* lucky to gain professional work experience and build skills in a highly supportive, positive office environment. Plus, CWEALF has granted me the opportunity to work on issues that I am highly passionate about, from economic equality to reproductive rights. My time at CWEALF has even aided in helping me to develop a clearer picture of my future. I have been exposed to a variety of new paths that I never would have considered before, such as the idea of pursuing a Master's in Social Work with a policy concentration. To say the least, I have been guided towards asking myself the right questions, and reflecting on what I truly want in a career. I have the wonderful women (and working environment!) of CWEALF to thank for that.

Erin Dunn
Political Science and Human Rights
University of Connecticut, Honors Program