Zachary Spahr

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Palladium  
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW   
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To Whom It May Concern,

As an undergraduate at the University of Notre Dame, I concentrated my studies on learning about International Development related issues with the goal of making a positive difference in the world. I am applying for the University Professionals Program at Pallidum because I want to build upon my prior project experience in a field that allows me to work to improve lives in developing countries.

In a course titled, “International Development in Practice,” at the University of Notre Dame, I worked on developing sustainable fundraising strategies for Education Bridge, a non-profit with the goal of providing impoverished students in South Sudan with a good education. On this project, we held meetings with the CEO and board members of the organization to get a sense of the way the organization wanted to implement our recommendations. We then looked at case studies from other large non-profits to get a sense of how this type of organization could arrive at a sustainable fundraising model. Looking at this analysis, we concluded that the organization needed to find a few large donors to sustain itself. This role taught me the importance of working face to face with the client throughout the problem-solving process so that the client will easily be able to implement the solutions.

As a Policy Intern at Serving Virginia, I conducted research on an individual policy issue each week and summarized the possible solutions to a problem in weekly meetings. This role required me to think critically in order to make judgements based on the information available and present my findings in a clear and concise format. For instance, after researching employment issues in Virginia, I concluded that an increased investment in vocational training would help create the number of jobs needed to get Virginia near full employment levels. This experience helped me further develop my ability to synthesize large amounts of information into a finished product that presents clear and concise solutions to the problem that I am trying to solve.

I want to continue to improve upon and the skills that I have developed through my International Development coursework and prior internship experience at Palladium. Please consider placing me on your interview schedule. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Zachary Spahr