



August 13, 2010

Contact:

Dennis Spellman
713-260-0779 (office)
281-881-3673 (cell)

**STUDENTS WHO HELPED SERVE FAMILIES AND
ELDERLY IN NEED THIS SUMMER TO BE HONORED**

Houston Housing Authority to Host High School and College Interns After Summer of Hard Work

HOUSTON—High school and college students who helped serve families and seniors in need this summer will be honored by the Houston Housing Authority Friday.

Nearly 20 interns, all Houston Housing Authority residents, worked summer internships to support the agency's operations from conducting background checks to answering questions from clients. Throughout the 6-week internships, the Houston Housing Authority provided professional development opportunities from career planning and college scholarship and financial aid information to guest speakers and current events discussions.

Housing Authority officials as well as community partners, including Jobing.com, Jobs for Progress, Frost National Bank, and Chris Garcia Design, will recognize the interns for their hard work.

The Housing Authority's paid summer internship program centers on educating, inspiring and equipping future leaders.

When 17-year old Tiffany Skillern started her Housing Authority internship this summer, she didn't know what "human resources" really meant. After a summer in the HR department, she understands the importance of human capital for a large organization.

"When I got in here, I was amazed at how much they do," said Tiffany. "We have to be on top of everything; everything is really confidential so you have to learn to be discreet. It's pretty awesome."

In addition to HR, interns helped manage other important tasks to help serve the thousands of Houston Housing Authority residents.

"These students are the future leaders of our communities," said Timothy Seckinger, Interim President and CEO of the Houston Housing Authority. "The interns have been invaluable to helping us serve families and elderly in need this summer, and we hope they feel better prepared for college and their careers."

Matthew Thompson, a sophomore at the University of Texas at Austin, worked with the Department of Corporate Integrity this summer. "I want to go to law school at UT or George Washington, and the internship was a great way to gain experience because it has a lot to do with public policy and government relations. This will enhance my resume for going to law school."

The Houston Housing Authority provides affordable homes and services to more than 55,000 people throughout Houston. The agency and its affiliates own and operate 25 housing communities with more than 6,500 units for families, elderly and other residents. More information about HHA can be found at www.housingforhouston.com.

###