



# Congressional Record

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## *Senate*

### UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

*by U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel*

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, each year congressional offices host American college students as interns, to help our future leaders learn about public service and see how their Government works firsthand.

Today, I would like to let you know about a program that gives Australian students the opportunity to experience our democratic and legislative process. It's called the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program.

My office is taking part in it right now, along with others in Congress. Twelve of Australia's brightest are here, pursuing knowledge and understanding. In so doing, we are all finding new reasons to like an old friend.

The Uni-Capitol was born of the efforts of Eric Federing. Eric worked for more than a decade in the House and the Senate as a senior adviser. While doing this job, he lectured across Australia on American Government, politics, and news media. In an effort to forge ties across the Pacific and for the betterment of both societies, Eric put together this idea in Washington in 1999.

The selection process for the students is competitive and intellectually rigorous, ensuring the highest quality applicant. All participating students are comprehensively matched with a congressional office and corresponding position. They come from a wide range of academic disciplines and bring as much knowledge and understanding to our offices as they take away.

For the past 7 years, Mr. Federing's students have approached this opportunity with vim and vigor. I am pleased to have Douglas Ferguson from the University of

Canberra working in my office this year. I would also like to submit into the RECORD the names of other Australian interns participating in this year's program:

Andrew Brookes, from Melbourne University, is in Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD's office. Ryan Conroy, from Deakin University, is in Representative SAM FARR's office. Jenna Davey-Burns, from Melbourne University, is in Representative LOUIS SLAUGHTER's office. Sarah Dillon, from Deakin University, is in Representative ALCEE HASTINGS's office. Jessica Gurevich, from Melbourne University, is in Representative MIKE CASTLE's office. Scott Ivey, from the University of Western Australia, is in Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ's office. Saul Lazar, from Deakin University, is in Senator CHUCK HAGEL's office. Abbie McPhie, from Melbourne University, is in Representative JERROLD NADLER's office. Linda Nelson, from the University of Wollongong, is with the House Science Committee's majority staff. Marianna O'Gorman, from the University of Queensland, is in Delegate ENI FALEOMAVAEGA's office. Rachel Thomson, from the University of Western Australia, is with the Joint Economic Committee's minority staff.

Australia continues to be one of America's strongest allies. Our greatest gift is the friendship born of shared values. I thank the Uni-Capitol Program and these Australian interns for their hard work, and I wish the program continued success.