

My internship experience at UNIC Accra

By: Lakeshia Ford

My internship experience at UNIC Accra Ghana has been nothing short of awesome! UNIC Accra exposed me to all that the United Nations is doing in Ghana, West Africa and the African continent at large.

I enjoyed working with the UNIC Accra staff and alongside my fellow UNIC Accra interns. What I loved about the internship program is that you get to do real work. I organized press conferences, which involved local media, UN officials and high-level officials in Ghana. I also did a lot of writing. Seeing one of my news pieces published in the local newspapers energized me to do more - the work you put in is rewarded. For

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to note that the UNIC Accra Internship is multi-dimensional. My experience ranged from doing research and developing excel spread sheets to conducting a high school drawing competition and speaking to students about Nelson Mandela and the importance of perseverance. I got to have diverse experiences, which allowed me to understand different aspects of development and the role communication plays.

While interning at UNIC Accra, I certainly learned and developed professional competencies but most of all, I got the chance to make an impact in Ghana. My most memorable experience was when the UNIC Accra staff commemorated Nelson Mandela Day by spending about 2 hours at Salem Senior High School, in Accra. We interacted with students on topics such as perseverance, peace building, and even taught some mandarin Chinese lessons. In my session, the students decided to translate the word ‘perseverance’ into their local language and began making a song out of it... it was amazing! That experience made an impact on me. As an aspiring US diplomat, my lessons and experiences learned through the UNIC Accra summer internship program has prepared me to be effective in my role as an international change agent.