

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black button-down shirt, stands in front of a glass wall. To her left, a large circular seal of the Department of Veterans Affairs is visible on the wall. The seal features an eagle with wings spread, perched on a shield with vertical stripes, surrounded by the words 'DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS'. The background shows an office interior with blue chairs and glass partitions.

# BUILDING A CAREER IN GOVERNMENT

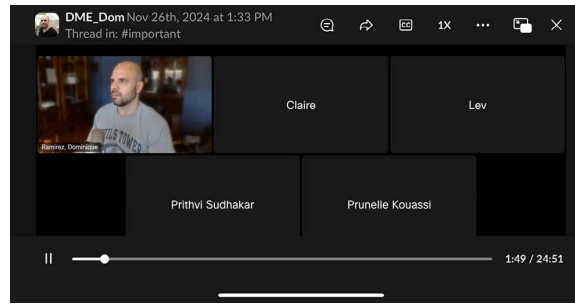
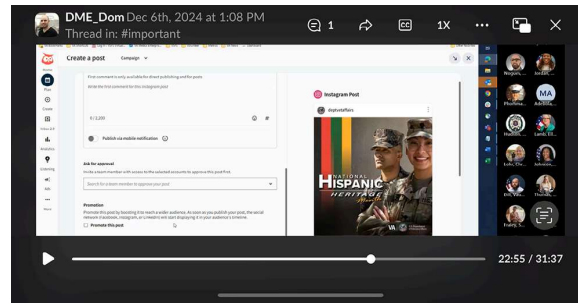
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INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE IN REFORM TIMES

It took one year and dozens of applications to be accepted into one of the most successful governmental student internships. In fall 2024, I became one of the 250 interns of the Digital Media Engagement Team of the US Department of Veterans Affairs. My peers were located across the United States, and some of them live overseas. I felt lucky to be selected from such a competitive pool of candidates. Suddenly, I was exposed to an incredible network of students, innovators, and highly intelligent individuals. It was a promise and a chance to build a successful career in government. Well... until the governmental reforms begin.

## **INTERNSHIP IN A REMOTE SETTING**

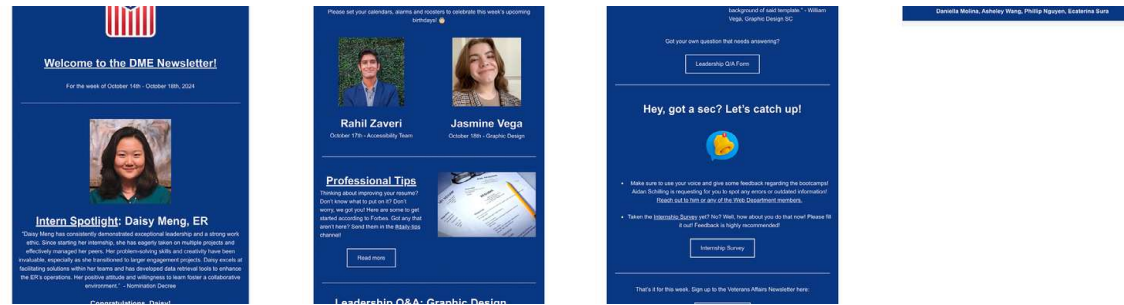
The start was very refreshing and promising. Once we joined Slack, we got familiar with the team and the ongoing projects. Our mission was to support social media content production by creating content, graphic design pieces, writing, editing, as well as developing a podcast and newsletters, both for internal and external use.



*Communication via Slack Huddles*

## KEY PROJECTS AND CONTRIBUTION

My role as part of the Newsletter team was to maintain an intern newsletter using MailChimp. We were silent voices that kept track of the most important projects and accomplishments of the whole team and made sure everyone knew who the heroes of the week were. The newsletter developed by my team praised the hard work, asked questions, and gave answers from the leadership, and kept the team informed with the recent updates.



*One of my projects: Intern Newsletter, developed with my department*

One of the most productive and creative interns in DME is the Graphic Design team. My peers developed strong visuals for Veterans Day, Patriot Day, and other notable holidays of the military community. My colleague's creative approach and dedication have helped the government to reach, engage, and support the U.S. Veterans.



*Social Media Graphics developed by the DME Team*

The real magic has happened in the DME Podcast studio. Each episode presented one intern's experience and their professional journey. I strongly recommend taking the time and listen to what my colleagues are up to. It is truly inspiring to explore how some of my peers managed to build a career in government by taking action and following their passions. One of them is Ellen Little, who landed an internship at NASA.

[Click Here for the DME Podcast](#)

## THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNSHIP IN THE CONTEXT OF REFORMS

My team continued to work even after funding cuts, and many federal employees were terminated. The chances of getting a job in government at the end of the internship decreased dramatically. However, my colleagues kept going, showing up, and delivering the best they could. To say that structural reforms didn't affect us would be a lie. We were concerned and asked questions. I really appreciate

my supervisor's efforts in keeping us updated and giving support for the duration of this internship. We were informed that there will not be a VSFS program for the next year, but anyone can apply for volunteer opportunities with the Veterans Affairs.



Source: VA.gov

DME Interns on LinkedIn

**Reference:** VSFS DME Interns. (n.d.). About. Retrieved May 20, 2025, from <https://www.dmeinterns.org/about/>