

Three Principles of a Career Launch

Imagine starting a political career right before the 2016 presidential election. For Xavier political science and public relations graduate Abbie Sumbrum '16, this became a reality!

Sumbrum has always been influenced by the public sector of government. Her father worked as a city firefighter and her mother was a crossing guard for Buffalo, NY. Growing up in a civil life, she learned the importance of active participation and community service, and this grew into a lifelong fascination in political science.

As a case worker for Congressman Brad Wenstrup, Sumbrum assists constituents who need help with federal agencies, such as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Social Security Administration, Medicare or Medicaid. She answers people's concerns and brings their voices to Congress so they can receive action.

"My career is an rewarding experience, because I have the opportunity to communicate with the public and see how contributions of government can bring something positive into their lives," Sumbrum said.

Sumbrum offers this advice:

1. Be involved with Xavier's support system- "Develop your relationships and have them sustain- especially with your professors. There is no one else who will push you harder or encourage you to follow your dreams. I also participated in a Xavier program called TriO, which offers support to first-generation college students. They made me realize my potential and strengthened my determination to succeed."

2. Participate in the Mentor program- "I was initially afraid to network, but once my mentor introduced me to different professionals, I learned from their career insights and make adjustments to my plans."

Learn more about the Mentor Program at xavier.edu/mentor

3. Receive real-world experience- "I cannot stress the importance of internships. Explore areas outside of your major's general workplaces. I had about six-to-seven internships during my four years, and they helped me narrow down the work experiences that I enjoy."

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