

ACCESS, Inc.

I met with Ms. Bautista on June 9, 2008, to discuss her ideas about further interface between USD students and her organization, ACCESS, Inc. (2612 Daniel Avenue in Linda Vista). She is Director of the Immigration Program administering the VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) cases. She has had good luck in the past taking on 2 or 3 USD Law students as unpaid interns. She is hoping to expand the opportunities for USD students, even at the undergraduate level.

She can take a maximum of 4 students per semester, and ideally each student would work 10 hours per week for at least two consecutive semesters.

N.B. With appropriate donated space on USD's campus, the work could be done here.

ACCESS provides legal assistance to clients (usually women) and their families who have been threatened by or subjected to domestic violence. The majority of the clients are Latino. Student interns being bilingual is useful but not required. The student interns' primary duty is case preparation, including the telephone/email legwork required to gather the necessary documentation for the client's file in preparation for Ms. Bautista's legal work.

Ideal candidates for this type of work are students who are empathetic, mature, resourceful, and willing to take initiative. They find value in the service they are providing and recognize the usefulness of such experience in working toward their USD degree.

In the past, students have been able to secure academic credit for the experience.

NEXT STEPS: Forward Ms. Bautista's needs to appropriate USD departments to make outreach to potential student workers/interns for Fall 2008.

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