

Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program

Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center

Howard University

PRESS RELEASE

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University of Delaware Senior Awarded Prestigious Pickering Fellowship

On November 16, Nasir Wilson, was awarded a 2019 Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship following a highly competitive nationwide contest. The Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship, funded by the U.S. Department of State and managed by the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center at Howard University, supports extraordinary individuals who want to pursue a career in the U.S. Foreign Service. The Director of the Thomas R. Pickering Fellowship Program, Lily Lopez-Mcgee Ph.D., stated, “We are truly thrilled and excited that Nasir will be joining the Pickering Fellowship Program. He demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, leadership and commitment to service during his time at University of Delaware. These experiences bode well for his success through graduate school and in the Foreign Service as well. I look forward to seeing all that he will accomplish in his career.”

Nasir currently works for the Department of State processing and responding to global non-FOIA legal demands and special projects in Information Programs and Services. Mr. Wilson previously interned at the US Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency creating the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) College Outreach Framework (COF), a first of its kind project projected to be implemented in the HMA Communications Task Force (CTF) in 2018. He has traveled to 15 countries and studied abroad in Ireland at the University of Limerick for 4 months studying courses related to European and African politics. His plans for graduate school are to study at an elite institution in Washington, D.C. with a particular focus in intelligence, development, and national security.

The Thomas R. Pickering Fellowship will support Nasir through a two-year graduate program to receive a master’s degree in an area relevant to the conduct of U.S. foreign policy. It will also provide extensive professional development opportunities, including internships, mentors, and skills training. As part of the Pickering Program, Nasir will have an internship based in Washington, D.C. working with the U.S. Department of State in summer 2020. In the summer of 2021, the U.S. Department of State will send him overseas to work and to gain hands-on experience with U.S. foreign policy and the work of the Foreign Service. Upon graduation, Nasir will become a U.S. Foreign Service Officer, embarking on one of the most challenging and rewarding careers of service to his country. He will work to promote peace and prosperity around the world.

About the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program

The Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program is a program funded by the U.S. Department of State, and administered by Howard University, that attracts and prepares outstanding young people for Foreign Service careers in the U.S. Department of State. It welcomes the application of members of minority groups historically underrepresented in the State Department, women, and those with financial need. Based on the fundamental principle that diversity is a strength in our diplomatic efforts, the program values varied backgrounds, including ethnic, racial, social, and geographic diversity. The Pickering Fellowship offers a unique opportunity to promote positive change in the world. Upon successful completion of a two-year master’s degree program and fulfillment of Foreign Service entry requirements, fellows have the opportunity to work as Foreign Service Officers in accordance with applicable law and State Department policy, serving in Washington, DC and at a U.S. embassy, consulate, or diplomatic mission around the globe

More information can be found online at <https://pickeringfellowship.org>.