

**Student: Aaron Vimont**  
**Placement: Disabilities Rights**  
**Program: Hatfield DC Scholars in Public Service**

This summer I had the opportunity to work as an intern at the Federal Communications Commission. I worked for the Accessibility and Innovation Initiative in the Consumer Affairs and Outreach Division. Though my time at the Commission was relatively brief, I learned an immense amount about the work of the Outreach Division and the importance of including persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of technology. My coworkers and supervisors were kind and welcoming, and they wanted to make sure that I got the most out of my experience at the Commission and Washington D.C.

My main project for the summer involved developing a set of software tools for the FCC's Accessibility Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse consists of a website and several application program interfaces (APIs), which provide information about accessible technologies, as well as contact information for those working on disability related issues in the wireless and cable fields. The APIs are designed to allow other developers to have access to the data in the Clearinghouse. The developers can then create their own applications or websites using that data. My immediate supervisor, Jamal Mazrui, was looking for a way to increase the number of developers using the Accessibility Clearinghouse data. I was asked to create a small software development kit (SDK) to simplify the use of the APIs. Using the Python programming language, I created an SDK that simplified the 15 different Clearinghouse APIs into a small set of Python classes and methods. The SDK handles the tedious work of using the APIs so developers can focus on using the data for their own applications. The SDK was then put up on the FCC's GitHub account so developers could download and use the code.

In addition to the work I completed on the Clearinghouse SDK, I also assisted the Outreach Division with numerous events they put on this summer. This included several events put on by Acting Chairwoman Clyburn. I had the opportunity to attend events related to disability rights and technology, and my coworkers from the FCC and I volunteered our assistance for the m-Enabling summit that took place in June. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the weekly seminars put on by Silicon Flatirons at the law office of Wilkinson, Barker, and Knauer. The seminars gave myself and my fellow students a wonderful opportunity to learn from experienced individuals involved in telecommunications policy. Working in Washington D.C. provides opportunities that cannot be found elsewhere. What I learned at the Commission, at events around the city, and in the seminars will stay with me as I start my career. The summer internship was a wonderful opportunity that I would gladly take again.