



KASE NIKKEI COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Funded by G. Kase

Coordinated by *the*center

Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California

OVERVIEW

The Kase Nikkei Community Scholarship Program (Kase Program) was developed to provide financial support for youth who are pursuing their college education and an opportunity to develop personal and career building skills through a unique internship at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (the Center)/JCCCNC. Their participation in this eleven-week community/career internship program will support their personal development, facilitate future employability and increase their understanding of contemporary social, cultural, civic, and preservation issues affecting our Japanese American community.

NEED

The Japanese American community has a vibrant history spanning more than a century and five generations in the United States. Japanese Americans have the tremendous task of defining and addressing the needs of the present community to ensure its future vitality. The participation of young people is one of the keys to sustaining the rich culture and traditions of the Nikkei heritage. Preparing our youth to meet these challenges is essential if we want to build future leaders in our community that are creative, competitive and capable in the years ahead.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Kase Program consists of two important components - a comprehensive internship program designed to allow participants to gain hands-on career training in an active work environment and participation in the statewide Nikkei Community Internship (NCI) Program.

During the eleven-week program, participants will gain skills in project management, public speaking, event planning, budgeting, computer applications, PR/marketing, and other skills and take part in personal development activities that will enhance their resumes. Interns will work closely with the Center staff on unique individual and group projects designed to empower them with new tools, confidence and experiences to support their future career goals.

As part of the Kase Program, interns will participate in the eight-week NCI Program. One day each week participants will meet and work with other Nikkei students to learn about community service, volunteerism and cultural and community preservation. They will also visit Japanese American organizations and community leaders in order to expand their personal knowledge of services, resources, opportunities and issues we are currently facing.

The Kase Nikkei Community Scholarship Program will support the leadership and personal development of participants by:

- Providing valuable work and career development experience tailored to their individual career and personal life goals;
- Giving young Nikkei greater exposure to opportunities and needs in the Japanese American community;
- Promoting interaction and networking between young Nikkei, community leaders and existing organizations and institutions;
- Connecting young Nikkei with mentors in the Japanese American community who inspire and enhance their desire to remain active in the community.

2018 Program dates: June 11 - August 24, 2018 (full-time, Monday-Friday, and some weekend days in June/July)

Number of participants: Up to five (5) students

Eligibility: Must be 18 (by 6/1/18) AND continuing in college in fall '18 OR recently graduated

WHAT THE KASE PROGRAM PROVIDES

- Eleven-week (full-time) summer internship at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC)
 - Personalized work plan and mentoring by experienced supervisor.
 - Weekly training meetings to develop leadership skills, and to meet with leaders and discuss issues that are affecting Japantown.
 - Career development workshops by trained professionals.
 - Two statewide weekend retreats* to work with peers in other CA regions and discuss issues facing the Japanese American community, like the preservation of Japantowns and leadership development. *Must be able to travel and attend.
- A \$5,000 educational scholarship for each student. The scholarship funds will be provided in two installments.

ABOUT G. KASE

G. Kase has been a strong supporter of the JCCCNC over the years, most notably by providing annual Kase Program Scholarship Funds since 2012 and to help the Center "Go Green" and install solar panels on the gymnasium roof which has significantly reduced our electricity bill. G. Kase believes that the Center is a second home in the community and that supporting the leadership development of Japanese American youth is vital to our future, preserving its rich history, heritage and traditions for generations to come.

By developing this scholarship fund, it has been the wish of G. Kase to provide financial assistance for college and to support the growth of young people in our community.