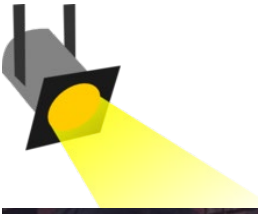


ECON SPOTLIGHT: CELESTE BERG



Meet Celeste Berg '13! Upon graduating with a degree in Economics, Celeste went right into a local government fellowship (which was then called City Hall Fellows but is now called San Francisco Fellows). Celeste found out about CHF through the Williams job posting website, then learned more about the program from Stevon Cook, a Williams alum and member of the initial CHF cohort. The CHF program is a one year immersive experience in local government in which each Fellow is placed in a local government department as a full-time employee for one year. Celeste was placed in the City Performance Unit of the Controller's Office, a group that serves as internal management

consultants for the City and County of San Francisco. All of the work was project-based and tapped into a lot of quantitative and qualitative analysis, information synthesis, dashboard development, facilitation and coordination, report writing, etc. Celeste says she “totally used [her] Economics degree, or rather, the analytical way of thinking.” She often conducted quantitative and qualitative analysis and best practices research, which she ultimately synthesized into digestible reports. Celeste stayed on at City Performance after her fellowship year as a performance analyst.

When it comes to navigating the working world beyond Williams, Celeste encourages students to “think critically about what they actually want in a job— it's so easy to get caught up in the stress and pressure of the job hunt and lose sight of the important things like: How important is it to me to be connected to the mission of the organization I'm working for? What do I want the actual day-to-day of my job to look like? What skills of mine are most important for me to use and develop further?”

Celeste offers more helpful insight: “In the Economics world and beyond, for students of color particularly and for students in general, my best advice is to find a mentor. Making an effort to cultivate relationships with professors at Williams and with particular managers and colleagues in the workplace has been critical for my professional development.” Celeste feels like her mentors have played a big part in her exploration of what she's interested in and where she wants to go, what skills she wants to develop, etc. She says her mentors have enabled her to learn more about herself, and in regard to students, she says mentors “are the best advocates you can have.”