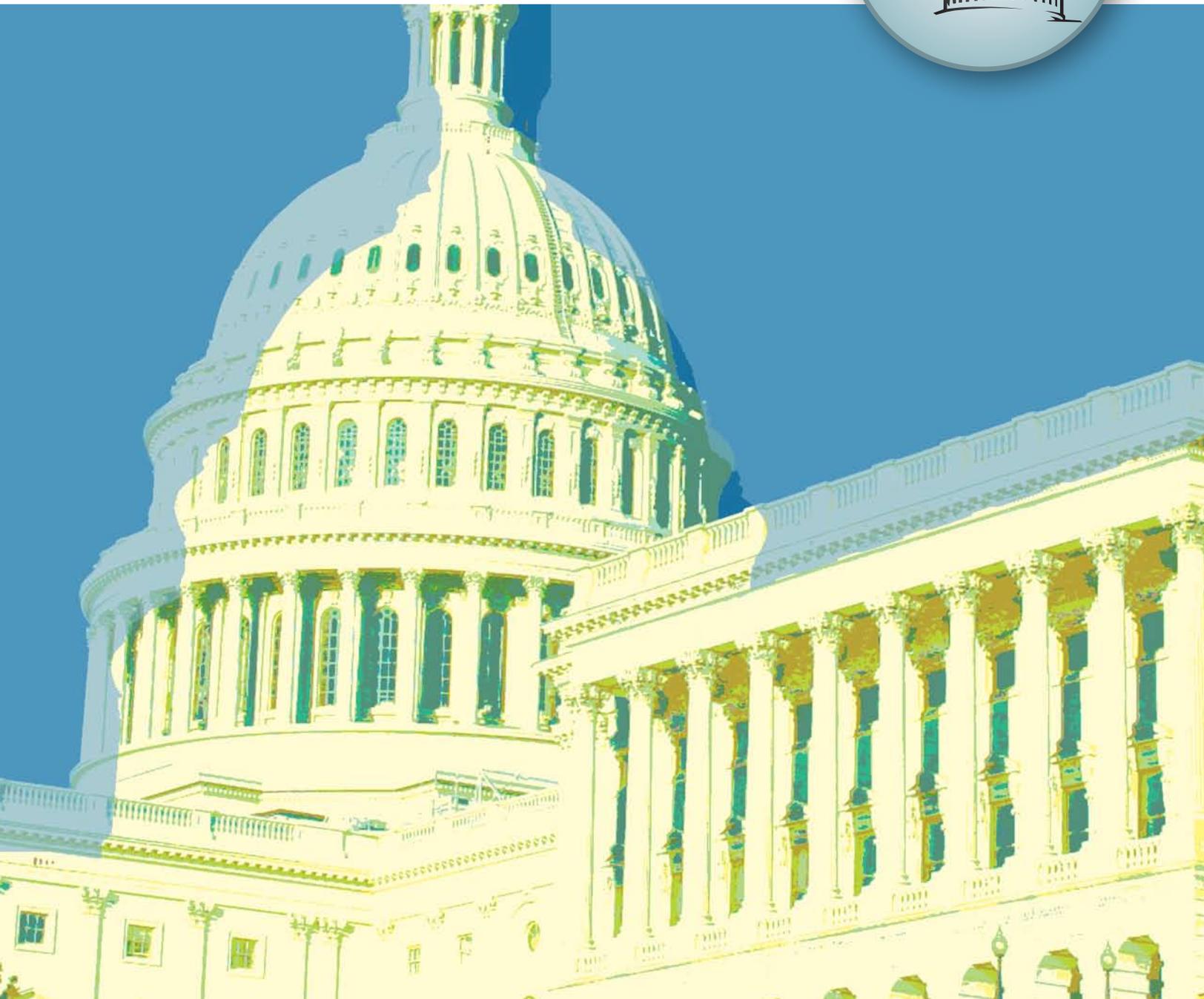




THE ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMERICA
CAPITAL GATEWAY PROGRAM



Gateway to Power

Through the Capital Gateway Program we continue our laser-like focus on helping qualified Armenian Americans, mostly recent university graduates, secure full-time jobs in political, policy-making, and journalism positions throughout Washington, DC.

The Armenian National Committee of America is committed to representing the views and advancing the values of the Armenian American community.

Since its founding, the key to the ANCA's success in giving voice to Armenian American aspirations has been its ability to build a solid grassroots base by engaging Americans of Armenian heritage at all levels of the U.S. political process. Today, resting upon a rock-solid foundation of community support, the ANCA operates a first-class Washington, DC lobby and a broad-based grassroots network that has earned a well-deserved reputation as one of the country's most powerful ethnic lobbies.

Parallel to the unswerving commitment that has driven the growth of the ANCA's advocacy capabilities in Washington, DC is our equally ardent interest in seeing an increasingly large number of qualified Armenian Americans starting careers in politics, government, and the media in our nation's capital.

We launched the Capital Gateway Program in 2003 in the knowledge that our advocacy work, however effective, would continue to face artificial limits as long as the number of Armenian Americans working in Washington, DC remained disproportionately low.

As a result, today, these two elements — a stronger "Armenian lobby" and a greater presence of Armenian Americans in all aspects of the Washington, DC foreign policy establishment — represent a highly efficient and effective means of leveraging our community's resources to achieve our shared aims.

The program builds on the ANCA's successful Leo Sarkisian Summer Internship Program, now over 25 years old, which has brought hundreds of youth leaders to Washington, DC for advocacy training and education about the growing role Armenian Americans play in advancing a broad range of advocacy issues.

The basics of the program are as follows: qualified Capital Gateway Program Fellows, once accepted, are provided three months of free housing in downtown Washington, DC, job-search training, resume-drafting assistance, mock interviews, the full use of ANCA facilities, and extensive staff support in their quest for the right job in the nation's capital.

So far, more than 70 official program participants have secured positions in a myriad of locations including with Members of Congress, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Export-Import Bank, Congressional Quarterly, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Many others, who, while not formal members of the Program, have been assisted by our Gateway staff in finding public policy-related jobs.

Over the years, the Capital Gateway Program has benefited tremendously from the generosity of donors committed to creating public service opportunities for young Armenian Americans. The Program was launched with a gift by the Cafesjian Family and the leading financial contributor to the Program has been the family of Hovig Apo Saghdejian, a 23-year old youth leader and community activist from Fresno, California, who lost his life in 2004 in a tragic car accident. His family established the Hovig Apo Saghdejian Memorial Fund in Hovig's memory. These funds are held in perpetuity, with all their income being used to finance the participation of young Armenian Americans in the Capital Gateway Program.

The Lincy Foundation, founded by businessman and philanthropist Kirk Kerkorian, has been a major benefactor of the Capital Gateway Program, providing financial stability for this youth-oriented initiative and helping it expand to meet the growing demand for its service among the next generation of young Armenian Americans.

In addition to the Lincy Foundation and the Hovig Apo Saghdejian Fellowship, the Capital Gateway Program has received substantial support from the Norman K. Miller Charitable Fund, established in memory of the Norman Miller (Norair Karekin Deirmengian), as well as longtime ANCA benefactors Mr. and Mrs. Frank and Barbara Hekimian and the Armenian American Veterans Post of Milford, Massachusetts (AAVO). Founded in 1946 by returning veterans of World War II and later expanded to include veterans of the Korean War, the AAVO has been a devoted contributor to community organizations and projects. They have been recognized for their generosity in newspapers, official proclamations, and through the appreciation of the many recipients of their humanitarian gifts.

Much has been accomplished, but much more needs to be done as we work to expand the Program and meet the needs of Armenian American youth interested in public service.

Through the Capital Gateway Program, we have set the Armenian American community on a course to leverage our greatest resource — our youth — in providing the sons and daughters of our nation with new and exciting opportunities, even as we advance our shared values and commonly held views.



JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES

The Program provides a full range of job search and networking assistance to help qualified recent Armenian American graduates and professionals secure positions with Congressional offices, federal agencies, think tanks, media outlets, and other elements of the Washington, DC foreign policy community.

ANCA LEO SARKISIAN SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

This highly-competitive internship provides university students with an intensive eight-week advocacy training program at the ANCA offices in Washington, DC.

ANCA EXTENDED INTERNSHIPS

Semester-long internships in the ANCA office offer university students in-depth training on special projects – such as regional studies, foreign aid, or human rights – dealing with the intern's specific area of interest.

ANCA EXTERNSHIPS

This Program places university students in semester-long externships in Congressional offices or in foreign policy related institutions where they will make important contacts and gain vital skills for later job placement.

UNIVERSITY INTERNSHIPS

The Program also facilitates the entry of an increased stream of Armenian Americans into existing university-run internship programs in Washington, DC.

CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONIALS

"If there were an offer on the table to come to Washington, DC, the power center of the world, work in the Congress not outside but inside the tent-in an office internship; if you had that offer with housing taken care of, with the internship being created, why wouldn't you take advantage of it? The Capital Gateway Program means that the gates will swing open, they have already been prepared for you, come here learn, grow, and have it be a substantive part of your life."

REP. ANNA ESHOO (D-CA)

"It's a great learning experience, obviously for the individual, for the young person, but I also think it helps the Members of Congress and other staff because the whole idea is that there is an Armenian American face so that people can see what some of the areas of concern are and interact with people of all ethnic groups."

REP. FRANK PALLONE (D-NJ)

"If you are just out of college and are looking towards the future in terms of a career, come to the nation's capital. If you are not decided yet as to what you want to do, but you have that education, come and take a look. Maybe you can come back and take my seat, or a seat in the Senate, or who knows-you could be President. The opportunity is there for you. So I invite you to come."

REP. DIANE WATSON (D-CA)

"This is a gateway to the Capital. It's just a great way for young people to come out and test the waters and see if this is the right challenge for them."

REP. ADAM SCHIFF (D-CA)

Capital Gateway Program Advisory Committee:

Expanding Mentorship and Career Guidance Resources for Job Search Success

In an effort to increase individual mentorship opportunities and provide a broader range of job search resources, ANCA Capital Gateway Program alumni Mike Gedjeyan, Dan Stepanian-Bennett, Yelena Allakhverdiv and Arbi Vartan have worked with Program Director Raffi Karakashian to establish the Capital Gateway Program Advisory Committee (ANCA CGPAC).

- Scheduled ANCA networking events with local Armenian American professionals, expanding participants' reach into Washington, DC's public policy environment.
- Served as a support team for CGP fellows facing a challenging job market in the nation's capital.

THE ANCA CGPAC HAS:

- Developed a highly personalized mentorship program for participants, pairing up each individual with young professionals active in their public policy field of interest.
- Organized a series of enrichment seminars designed to improve job-search results with special focus on improving cover letter and resume writing skills, interview techniques, maximizing networking opportunities and a specialized self-awareness workshop to help identify career interests.
- Provided individualized "mock interview" support for CGP fellows, preparing them for the tough questions they will encounter from prospective employers during their job search.

The ANCA CGPAC's efforts have produced concrete results, with program fellows deeply appreciative of the personalized attention and the one-on-one mentorship and advice provided by local public policy professionals.



ANCA Leo Sarkisian Program:

Preparing the Community Leaders of Tomorrow



Established in 1985, the Leo Sarkisian Summer Internship Program has been a cornerstone of the ANCA's nationwide efforts to educate, motivate and activate Armenian American youth to expand advocacy efforts in their home towns and campuses.

Named in memory of the late ANCA Eastern U.S. community leader who spearheaded grassroots activism to advance the Armenian Cause for more than four decades, the Leo Sarkisian program now has hundreds of alumni across the world, spreading the message of truth and justice for the Armenian Genocide, freedom for Artsakh, and a secure, prosperous, and democratic Armenian homeland.

Each year, perspective candidates from the United States and Canada are selected through an intensive application process. Those accepted take part in a unique educational experience that empowers them to take their local activism to the next level in making a difference on a national scale. During the eight-week

Washington, DC program, interns live at the ANCA Capital Gateway House, located a short distance from the ANCA offices. The participants work on a wide variety of projects based on their individual interests, while gaining hands-on experience within the American political system. They have a bi-weekly lecture series which features guest lecturers from Members of Congress to Ambassadors to Armenian American leaders.

The Leo Sarkisian Internship Program is an integral part of a growing effort to provide Armenian Americans greater opportunities to explore careers on Capitol Hill, in the U.S. Foreign Service and key Washington, DC, foreign policy think tanks. It is a part of the larger ANCA Capital Gateway Program, which is designed to help university students and graduates find internships and permanent positions in Congressional offices as well as a host of other government agencies and policy groups.

For over a quarter century, the Leo Sarkisian Internship program has served as an Armenian American advocacy boot camp – training the next generation of activists to effectively promote our collective Cause. After their eight weeks here in the nation's capital, they'll return to their home towns energized to work with fellow community members to take grassroots activism to the next level.

—Raffi Karakashian, Esq. ANCA Legislative Affairs Director

Testimonials

ARBI VARTAN

ANCA LEO SARKISIAN INTERN 2008
CGPAC CHAIRMAN
CONSULTANT, BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON

In the summer of 2008, I participated in the ANCA Leo Sarkisian internship program. During my time as an ANCA intern, I examined the influence of countries in the Caucasus Region on U.S. policy, contributed to a nation-wide congressional and constituent database, and met with members of Congress to familiarize them with Armenian American and human rights issues. I now work for Booz Allen Hamilton: a strategy and technology consulting firm with nearly 25,000 employees. At Booz Allen, I utilize my education in organizational psychology and experiences working with the ANCA to find novel ways to improve government processes and create new ones as needed.

I am doing what I have always wanted to do at Booz Allen, and I am here because of the ANCA.

Here's why:

During my final round interview, one of the primary interviewers asked me a series of detailed questions about my time as an ANCA intern. After I responded, he rummaged through his papers and pulled out a press release I wrote one year prior as an ANCA intern about my experience meeting with my congressman. The interviewer smiled, admitting that he had "Googled" me, but let me know that he appreciated the breadth and significance of my experiences with the ANCA.

My experience with the ANCA made me shine in the eyes of a hiring manager at one of the leading government consulting firms in the nation.



I was lucky enough to secure a position before moving out to Washington, DC, but the comfort of knowing that I had the Capital Gateway Program (CGP) to assist me if the offer did not go through, made my transition from California to the nation's capital much easier. Ever since, I have worked closely with the ANCA to help establish and now chair the Capital Gateway Program Advisory Committee (CGPAC).

The CGPAC is composed of Armenian American professionals in the DC area who support the CGP Director by facilitating the execution of the mentorship program, enrichment seminars, networking events, mock interview sessions, and other components of the CGP to aide its fellows in pursuing their career interests.

Reading emails from CGP fellows regarding recently accepted job offers has been common in the last few months, but let this not paint the wrong picture: searching for and securing a job – particularly in our current economic climate – is no easy matter. It is often both stressful and daunting.

The ANCA CGP recognizes the difficulty in finding and securing a job.

In doing so, the CGP provides its fellows with much of what they will need to be successful, from relevant resources and networks to free housing and office access. To top it all off, the ANCA has a team of dedicated CGP alumni and DC professionals who volunteer their time to help its fellows succeed and start their careers.

The CGP is an invitation to jumpstart your career in the nation's capital. Take advantage of it.

SHANT NAHAPETIAN

CAPITAL GATEWAY FELLOW - FALL 2008
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT, REP. LLOYD DOGGET (D-TX)

I contemplated my move to Washington, DC for several months before I learned about the Capital Gateway Program. At the time, I had made a career for myself, lived a comfortable life, and was surrounded by family and friends. What I did not have was passion for what I was doing. My interest had always been in politics and policy so I knew Washington was where I wanted to be. Leaving everything in my life to explore this goal was another question. I learned about the Capital Gateway Program through a friend and suddenly the decision became clearer. It is often difficult to pick up one's life, leave loved ones, and move across country to pursue a dream. But, the ANCA's Capital Gateway Program provides the resources, mentoring, and encouragement to significantly ease the burdens such a drastic life change may entail.

Before I arrived, the ANCA had already graciously arranged my housing. When I arrived, I was immediately welcomed by alumni



of the Gateway Program. And within days, the ANCA helped me secure an internship on Capitol Hill. The experience derived from my internship ultimately led to a position with Congressman Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), where I was fortunate to work at a time when the Administration and Congress set out to enact important reforms.

Having worked in Congress, I can attest to the overwhelming volume of legislative issues facing Members of Congress and their staff. To advance Hai Tahd, there must be a voice in that arena of decision-makers to bring much needed attention to our issues. The Gateway Program aims to do exactly that by helping Armenian Americans find careers in the political and policy realm where they can be that voice. And even if we are not always successful in enacting the policies we seek, success can also be measured in more modest terms. We will always achieve success so long as Gateway Fellows continue to use their positions to spread awareness among their colleagues and employers. If you are interested in public service, the political process, and Armenian issues; this is where you belong.

ALEEK KAHRAMANIAN
 CAPITAL GATEWAY FELLOW - FALL 2008
 FINANCE ASSISTANT, MARK SCHAUER FOR CONGRESS

The ANCA Capital Gateway Program (CGP) introduced me to Washington, DC. Prior to my move out there, I had never been to the nation's capital and wasn't quite sure what to expect. The program helped me with housing, building a resume, and getting my career started with an internship in a U.S. Senate office. Not having to worry about where to live alleviates a lot of stress, and allows recent graduates to focus on finding a full time job in DC. Moving out to a new city is hard - moving out to Washington, DC, to find a job within a few short months sometimes feels nearly impossible. The CGP provides a safety net to young Armenian Americans looking to make a change - whether in the non-profit sector, on Capitol Hill, or in government consulting.

The CGP helped strengthen my resume and introduced me to a network of public policy professionals. The ANCA staff provided me with guidance on career moves and choices, even after

becoming a successful alumna of the program. My career goals in the Fall of 2008 were very different from my career goals today. With the help of CGP alumni and their network, I was exposed to new thoughts, advice, and other people's experiences on how to advance my career.

Finding jobs, and even building a career inside the Beltway is not easy, by any means. It takes a lot of hard work, hundreds and hundreds of cover letters and many informational meetings... but both ANCA staff and CGP alumni are there every step of the way to help each graduate get a head start.

ALEX DER ALEXANIAN
 ANCA LEO SARKISIAN INTERN 2007
 CAPITAL GATEWAY FELLOW - WINTER 2010
 QUALITY ASSURANCE ASSISTANT MANAGER,
 THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.

The ANCA Capital Gateway Program (CGP) was an invaluable resource for my job search in Washington, DC. Through the guidance, mentorship, and support of the CGP Committee, I was able to set myself apart in the competitive DC job market and secure a rewarding position in the government contracting industry.

DANIEL STEPANIAN-BENNETT
 CAPITAL GATEWAY FELLOW - FALL 2007
 CGPAC MEMBER
 PROJECT MANAGER, POLITICAL MEDIA, INC.

With alumni working in Congressional/Government offices, educational institutions, think tanks, lobbying/public affairs, government contracting, non-profit organizations, international aid/development, political consulting and many other fields, the Capital Gateway Program is a full-fledged network of Armenian American professionals reinvesting in our community. Yet despite the vastly diverse industries represented by our CGP fellows, each and every one of them is an ambassador of "Hai Tahd" in their own way. The CGP is about believing in a Cause that's bigger than yourself and paying it forward.

The ANCA Capital Gateway Program: An Investment in our Future, that is Already Producing Results Today!

Here are some examples of how we have helped talented, young Armenian Americans get started in Washington, DC public policy careers:

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Vahan Callan** get his start at the **U.S. Export-Import Bank**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Shant Mesrobian** get his start at **Congressional Quarterly**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Etienne Kechichian** get his start at the **World Bank**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Ani Bedrosian** get her start in **U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo's** office.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **David Abrahamian** get his start in **Senator Barbara Boxer's** office.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Steve Karapetian** get his start in **U.S. Rep. Eric Cantor's** office.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Veronica Siranosian** get her start at the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Angineh Kzirian** get her start in **U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone's** office.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Eric Oganessian** get his start in **Senator Peter Fitzgerald's** office.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Nora Keomurjian** get her start in **U.S. Rep. Steve Rothman's** office.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Vasken Kassakhian** get his start in **U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff's** office.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Gohar Galyan** get her start at the **PR firm Fleishman-Hillard**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Vazrik Sabounjian** get his start in **U.S. Rep. Xavier Becerra's** office.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Avak Kahramanian** get his start in **Senator Debbie Stabenow's** office.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Yelena Allakhverdov** get her start at the **U.S. House Committee on Administration**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Chelsea Bissell** get her start at **U.S. Rep. Denny Rehberg's** office.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Vana Kouyoumji** get her start at **U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff's** office.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Mary Vardazarian** get her start at **Chemonics International**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Shant Nahapetian** get his start in **U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett's** office.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **George Kivork** get his start with the **Kerry-Edwards** campaign.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Andrew Gregorian** get his start in **U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer's** office.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Tamar Kazarian** get her start in **U.S. Rep. Peter Barca's** office.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Kris Demirjian** get his start at the **U.S. House Transportation Committee**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Aram Sirabonian** get his start at the **U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Mane Beglaryan** get her start with **Development Associates**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Ara Bedrosian** get his start in **U.S. Rep. Porter Goss' office**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Levon Shahabian** get his start at **Layalina Productions**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Hovik Shirikian** get his start at **U.S. Rep. Lynn Woolsey's office**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Dan Stepanian-Bennett** get his start at **Political Media, Inc.**

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Aleek Kahramanian** get her start at the **American Lung Association**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Aren Ghazarians** get his start with the **Law Media Group**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Alex Der Alexanian** get his start with the **Louis Berger Group**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Lori Partamian** get her start with **U.S. Rep. Dina Titus' campaign**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Rita Astoor** get her start with the **Leitner Center for Int'l Law and Justice**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Mike Kourinian** get his start at the **Civilian Research & Development Foundation**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Grigor Hakobyan** get his start writing for the **Central Asia and Caucasus Analyst**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Nora Demirjian, Karine Shamlan, and Lara Manuelian** get their start at the **U.S. House Commerce Committee**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Tsoghig Hekimian, Megan Khatchadourian, and Astine Suleimanyan** get their start with the **ACLU**.

The Capital Gateway Program helped **Shooshan Kechichian, Michael Gedjeyan, Robert Khatchadourian, and Nareg Sagherian** get their start at the prestigious consulting firm, **Booz Allen Hamilton**.



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