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The location of the Washington Campus program, in the nation's capitol, offers unique resources, including instructors and guest speakers who are among the country's top lecturers in the field of business-government relations. Here students talk with Walter Mondale in the former Vice President's office.

Seidman Students Get First-Hand Look At Government in Washington Campus Program

F. E. Seidman College students who studied business-government relations in the nation's capitol last summer returned home with enthusiasm and praise for the four-week program.

M.B.A. student Priscilla VanDussen called it a "personally and professionally rewarding experience" offering "a wealth of knowledge as to why, how, and who makes our government work."

"The program does an exceptionally good job of giving you a good feeling for the vitality, complexity and level of activity in Washington," according to Dave Porter, who earned his M.B.A. in June. "You get an idea of how it works, what it means to be a legislator, a lobbyist, or a bureaucrat, and how these things affect what happens throughout the country."

Deborah Edwards, who remained in the capitol for two additional months to serve as an intern in the Washington office of Amway Corporation, reported that "the program provided an opportunity to learn

from some of the most knowledgeable and respected persons in government and business.

"Not only were the instructors professional in their teaching methods, but they also had firsthand experience in government," Edwards said.

Five Seidman College students, including VanDussen, Porter, Edwards, Eileen Burr, and Elizabeth Fortino, were among the thirty students participating in the program. Their courses covered domestic and international economic policy, government regulation, policy development in the elective branch, and Congress, lobbying and interest groups.

The program was sponsored by the Washington Campus, a non-profit educational organization offering a new concept in intensive study of business-government relations. Established in 1978 with special grants from the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, the BankAmerica Foundation, and Seidman College, the

Washington Campus is now a consortium of thirteen colleges and universities.

Grand Valley's fellow institutional members of the consortium are well-known schools, ranging from Dartmouth and Cornell to the University of Michigan and the University of California at Los Angeles.

In addition to two four-week summer sessions for students, the Washington Campus also offers executive development programs which bring executives, administrators, and managers to Washington for similar but shorter programs.

Seidman College Dean Marvin DeVries says the college is exploring possibilities for offering local workshops or seminars along similar lines. "There is a growing need for those involved in the private sector to know more about how government policy is developed, how it affects the private sector, and how the private sector influences it. We believe Seidman College can help fill this need in west Michigan," he said.