Bullock Scholars and Baylor TLIP Day

Fifteen Baylor University students were honored by the Texas Legislature on April 20, 2009, for their participation in the Bullock Scholars and Texas Legislative Internship Program (TLIP). Dr. James A. Curry, the Bob Bullock Professor of Public Policy and Administration at Baylor University, was also recognized on the floor of the Texas Senate. Also in attendance representing Baylor was Rochonda Farmer-Neal, Director of Governmental Relations. Following a reception in the Lieutenant Governor’s Reception Room, the students were recognized on the Senate floor by Senator Kip Averitt.

Baylor’s Bullock Scholar Program was established in 2000 through the generous support of many Bullock family and friends. The first group of Bullock Scholar students worked in the 2001 legislative session, and the current 2009 class marks the fifth consecutive session in which Bullock Scholars have been present. The program has expanded from five students in 2001 to ten this year. The current Bullock Scholars and their internship placements are:

- Kimberly Blum  Rep. Donna Howard
- Erica Gibbs  Joint Committee on Oversight of Criminal Justice
- Charles Goff  Senator Robert Duncan
- Daisy Marchena  Senator John Whitmire
- Zachary Page  Senator Kel Seliger
- Chelsea Reilly  Rep. Jim Dunnam
- Amanda Speer  Rep. Mark Strama
- Kelsi Wade  Senator Florence Shapiro (Senate Education Committee)
- Chase Weber  Rep. Dan Branch
- Melissa Yeakley  Senator Kip Averitt

The reputation of the Bullock Scholars Program led to an invitation from Senator Rodney Ellis for Baylor University students to join the TLIP program. With generous financial support from the Beaumont Foundation, five Baylor students were honored as TLIP interns by Senator Ellis on the Senate floor. Those Baylor students and their internship placements are:

- Tressie Bates  Rep. Barbara Mallory Caraway
- Tanya Gripton  Rep. Helen Giddings
- Farrah Namjuddin  Senator Judith Zaffirini
- Stephen Rispoli  Rep. Carol Kent

Dr. Curry expressed Baylor’s gratitude to the legislators who provided internship opportunities for the students and noted that “Baylor University students have become recognized at the capitol for their strong preparation, dedication, and dependability as full-time interns. In fact, we have far more legislators requesting our students than we can accommodate.”