

RESOLUTION 2025 -

BY THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS ESTABLISHING THE HERMAN S. GEIST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, The Westchester County Board of Legislators recognizes the value of public service and desires to engage the next generation in local government; and

WHEREAS, there is demonstrated need in Westchester County to provide meaningful professional development opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds, especially those who may face financial or structural barriers to unpaid internships or career exploration; and

WHEREAS, providing paid summer fellowships can cultivate civic engagement, expose students to career paths in public service and develop a pipeline of future leaders who are familiar with and invested in their local communities; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2025, the Westchester County Board of Legislators celebrated the 100th birthday of Herman S. Geist, the first-ever Board Chairman, a lifelong public servant and mentor; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Herman S. Geist transformed Westchester through a century of dedicated service and enhanced county government and the lives of Westchester residents, demonstrating the remarkable impact one committed person can achieve in their community; and

WHEREAS, to honor the extraordinary legacy of Herman S. Geist, the Chairman of the Board of Legislators named the Board's paid summer internship program the "Herman S. Geist Summer Fellowship Program."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Westchester County Board of Legislators hereby establishes the Herman S. Geist Fellowship Program to be launched in Summer 2025 and continuing annually thereafter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the goals of the Herman S. Geist Fellowship Program shall be to enhance each fellow's understanding of the legislative process and how county government works.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Herman S. Geist Fellowship Program shall be administered by the Clerk of the Board of Legislators, subject to the following conditions:

1. Each County Legislator shall designate one participant each summer for the Herman S. Geist Fellowship Program.
2. Participants in the Herman S. Geist Fellowship Program shall be between the ages of 16 and 22 years old.

3. The Herman S. Geist Fellowship Program shall begin no later than July of each year, with each fellow to complete no more than 100 hours.
4. Participants in the Herman S. Geist Fellowship Program shall be compensated at a rate equal to the Westchester County hourly minimum wage rate.

Dated:

White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION