Reach Out and Read Illinois | www.illinoisAAP.org/reachoutandreadillinois

- Sylvia Montijo (Child Development, American Studies, 2016)
- Reach Out & Read and Early Childhood Development Intern
- Full-time, 32 hours per week
- Unpaid but receiving Career Center Internship Grant

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
As an intern at Reach Out and Read (ROR), I was responsible for making visits to program sites to see how the program was running at each site, as well as how I - and other ROR Illinois staff - could be of assistance to them. I was also responsible for researching grant opportunities and distributing donation materials to thousands of providers, updating the ROR website using WordPress, creating flyers and videos for fundraising events, and much more.

How did you find your internship?
I found my internship at Idealist.org.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
Low-income children of color do not often have access to books in their home. As a result, upon turning three, these children hear an average of 40 million words less than their White, middle and upper-class counterparts. I have proud to have been able to ensure that many low-income POC in Chicago have access to books from as early as 6 months, equipping them with an essential tool needed to enter kindergarten with a solid foundation.

What do you find challenging?
What was most challenging about my internship was having to sit at a desk for long periods of time sending emails and coordinating events.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Take advantage of the fact that there are so many programs that you can learn how to use while interning here! I applied for this internship before Winter vacation began, so be sure to apply early!

About the Organization
Reach Out and Read Illinois
Chicago, IL

Reach Out and Read is an evidence-based nonprofit organization of medical providers who promote early literacy and school readiness in pediatric exam rooms nationwide by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud. Reach Out and Read builds on the unique relationship between parents and medical providers to develop critical early reading skills in children, beginning at 6 months of age. Reach Out and Read serves more than 4 million children and their families annually. Reach Out and Read families read together more often, and their children enter kindergarten better prepared to succeed, with larger vocabularies and stronger language skills. During the preschool years, children served by Reach Out and Read score three to six months ahead of their non-Reach Out and Read peers on vocabulary tests. These early foundational language skills help start children on a path of success when they enter school.