



***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (June 12, 2024)***

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**Welcome to the SEA Force team**



Welcome Harrison County Development Commission's (HCDC) newest SEA Force intern, Julian Atehortua, who will divide his time between HCDC, Port of Gulfport, and Port of Pascagoula.

"I am an international student from Colombia and graduating in December 2024 with BSBA's in International Business and Finance from The University of Southern Mississippi. I aspire to work with an international trading company and help expand my father's business.

The Mississippi Gulf Coast has a special place in my heart, and many friends welcomed me as I began my university studies. With beautiful cities, landscapes, and extraordinary food, the Gulf Coast has become my favorite region in the state." Prior to university, Atehortua was an international exchange student and graduated from Gulfport High School in 2020.

The SEA Force internship initiative is a groundbreaking effort aimed at building connections between students and employers. HCDC Executive Director Bill Lavers emphasized the organization's dedication to nurturing future talent stating, "We look forward to sharing Julian with the community in the coming months as it's a fantastic opportunity to learn, grow and contribute."

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**Business opportunities are strong here.**

Our community's strength is ever apparent in our steadfast workforce and sturdy infrastructure. For more information, visit Harrison County Development Commission [mscoast.org](http://mscoast.org).