



VisionSpring announces

## **The Patricia Sagna Memorial Internship for Women of Color in Logistics**



**In loving memory of our dearly departed colleague, VisionSpring is establishing the Patricia Sagna Memorial Internship for Women of Color in Logistics.**

The internship is named in honor of a former VisionSpring employee, Patricia Sagna, who skillfully managed VisionSpring's global supply chain from 2018-2019 and touched the VisionSpring family with her humor, curiosity and friendship. Patricia's untiring commitment to raising up others inspires us to serve her memory by creating an opportunity for promising students to build their international career experience.

VisionSpring is creating the internship in recognition of barriers that prevent qualified people, particularly women of color, from entering careers in international development and progressing in the field of supply chain management. Internships in international development are typically unpaid, such that students and new graduates must self-fund their time with a non-profit. And, entry level positions often require overseas experience as a prerequisite. Both of these propositions are expensive and inaccessible for many candidates and result in elite capture of entry level opportunities. The field of logistics and supply chain management is primarily occupied by men (75%) and women hold just 5% of leadership positions.

The internship is designed to advance more women, particularly women of color, into the fields of international development and supply chain management with practical knowledge, global experience and mentorship.

This will be a full-time, paid summer internship, based in VisionSpring's New York City office. Interns will have the opportunity to travel (at VisionSpring's expense) to work with team members and partners in one of its key markets – India, Bangladesh, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia or Vietnam.

Interns will assist VisionSpring in maintaining a reliable supply of radically affordable eyeglasses to hospitals, vision centers, non-profits and government agencies serving low-income customers in emerging markets. Interns will participate in sourcing products and materials from manufacturers in China, managing third-party logistics providers, and supporting institutional partners with customs clearance. Interns will report to the Global Logistics Manager, work on a strategic project with the COO, and collaborate with finance and global sales teams. This will be an annual summer internship, with the first intern to join in the summer of 2021.



VisionSpring is dedicating \$10,000 to fund the first year of the internship and seeks to raise an additional \$90,000 to fund the internship for an initial period of 10 years. We invite foundations, corporations and individuals to contribute as a commitment to countering systemic bias in non-profit workplaces, and advancing diversity in supply chain professions.

To donate to the Patricia Sagna Memorial Fund for Women of Color in Logistics [contribute online](#).

Alternatively, please contact Kristen Shaw at [kristen.shaw@visionspring.org](mailto:kristen.shaw@visionspring.org).

**“On behalf of the Sagna family, we would like to thank everyone who participates in the internship. Patricia would be so happy to know that she opened the doors for someone else to pursue their passion. This reflects who Patricia was.”**

*- Monique and Pierre,  
Patricia's parents*

Patricia was killed in a road traffic accident. In recognition of how Patricia lost her life, VisionSpring will formally launch the internship on the one-year anniversary of her passing in October 2020, holding a special See to be Safe program in India in her honor. This road safety program will screen the vision of 5,000 truck drivers and allied transportation workers and provide eyeglasses for drivers so they can see the road clearly and reduce the risk of an accident.

**Patricia Sagna:** Born in Senegal in 1986 and educated in the United States, Patricia (“Trish” to her friends and colleagues) became a specialist in global supply chain and logistics, a field historically dominated by white men. She worked for nine years for Maersk in China, South Africa, Dubai and India, where she earned her six sigma certification. In China, her manager applauded Patricia’s ability to oversee a team as an ex-pat in a “difficult” environment, succeeding in bringing her team to a top position in terms of volume. Patricia returned to the United States to earn a Master’s degree in logistics and supply chain management from the University of Maryland. She then joined VisionSpring as its first Global Logistics Manager, responsible for moving hundreds of thousands of eyeglasses into emerging markets in Africa, South Asia, and Latin America, overcoming often daunting levels of bureaucracy. An eyeglasses wearer herself, Patricia championed VisionSpring’s mission to create access to affordable eyeglasses for people living on less than \$4 per day – people who would not otherwise have access to clear vision.

Patricia was methodical in her approach, courageous in her willingness to face challenges, and fiercely intelligent (adding the Chinese language to her fluent French and English). She was also generous, striving to support her colleagues’ success as much as her own.



**VisionSpring:** A pioneering, international social enterprise, VisionSpring accelerates the uptake of affordable eyewear among people who earn less than \$4 per day in emerging and frontier markets. Founded in 2001, VisionSpring uncovers latent demand for vision correction; conducts community, workplace and school vision screenings; trains others to do the same; and supplies radically affordable, durable eyeglasses. VisionSpring has delivered more than 6.8 million pairs of eyeglasses, providing vision correction in 43 countries with over 385 NGO, corporate, government and health partners. VisionSpring has been recognized for its innovative work, receiving multiple awards including the Skoll Award; social entrepreneur fellowships from Draper Richards Kaplan, the Aspen Institute, and the Schwab Foundation; and honors from World Bank, Duke University, Fast Company, and the Tribeca Film Festival, among others.

Learn more about VisionSpring at [visionspring.org](https://visionspring.org).

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