Adding a master’s degree to his BUPD undergrad was an easy choice for Davonte Caldwell.

“I definitely wanted to narrow down what I want to do as a planner and to refine my skills,” said Caldwell, one of three students in the 2016 class who will earn the fast-track master’s degree for students with an undergraduate degree in planning.

Caldwell was looking for ways to build his resume and used the summer break before grad school to pick up an internship (his second) in Indianapolis’ historic Irvington neighborhood. He crafted plans for wayfinding signage and facilitated parking agreements between businesses.

His graduate assistantship has helped to further build that resume. He is one of nine students this academic year who are sponsored by outside organizations; his sponsorship comes from the Delaware-Muncie Metro Plan Commission where he works up to 20 hours a week.

Being able to blend his interest in community service with his love for design is what makes planning exciting for him. As part of CAP, he’s attended APA Indiana conferences and visited Chicago, Pittsburgh, and Michigan during field trip week. He’s also been active in NOMAS, the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students and attended its annual conference in 2013.

His favorite CAP projects, he says, were studios with the Old West End and Industry neighborhoods in Muncie, both with Instructor Lisa Dunaway. “It’s a satisfying collaborative process to build an action plan that will help guide neighborhoods on a path to a better future,” he said.