Yale University President’s Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2019

• Organization: New Haven Promise

• Address of organization: 28 Lincoln Way New Haven, CT 06510

• Website: www.newhavenpromise.org

• Name and title of person who will be the Fellow’s direct supervisor: Patricia Melton, President of New Haven Promise

• Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor: 203-776-6473 (x4105) patricia@newhavenpromise.org

• Placement dates - 11 weeks between Tuesday, May 28 and Friday, August 9, 2019:

• Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe:
  Yes, however, the fellow must be able to work through the Scholar Celebration that occurs the 2nd full week of August. Is it possible for the scholar to start a week later and extend a week at the end of the engagement?

• Proposed work schedule (placements should be equivalent to full-time and not more than 37.5 hours/week): 35-40 hours weekly

Placement Description

• Organization description (mission statement, population served. 150 words or less.):

The mission of NHP is to build a culture in the public schools in which students aspire to attend and graduate college; to provide financial incentives and support for those

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students; and to facilitate their return to live, work, and serve in the greater New Haven community.

New Haven Promise (NHP) is a scholarship and support program that promotes college completion for New Haven public school students; builds parent, community and business engagement to assist students to and through higher education; and enhances the growth and stability of the City of New Haven through an educated, skilled and volunteer minded workforce.

- Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting (50 words or less. This will be used as your organization’s project description summary on the PPSF website, so be succinct):

The Fellow will create and organize a professional development enrichment module that will include public speaking through Pecha Kucha (an innovative and engaging model for public speaking) and other soft skills development that New Haven Promise Scholars who have been placed in internships at Yale and throughout the city of New Haven will be able to benefit.

- Write a more complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow. (Suggested length: one to two pages.)

New Haven Promise is at our core, an economic development program that utilizes a college tuition benefit to engage and motivate students to aspire to attend college, to get through college and to return and launch their career and civic lives in the city of New Haven. We follow our scholars for an eight to ten year trajectory until they are placed in livable wage jobs in the Greater New Haven region. With a population that is nearly 80% 1st Generation to college attendees and whose family incomes are below $60,000, most of our scholars come from blue-collar working-class families as opposed to white-collar households. Our goal is to change the outcomes and move our scholars solidly into the middleclass.

New Haven Promise has a career launch program that provides high-quality internships across a variety of employment sectors during the summers and positions our scholars to be competitive in securing prized career entry-level positions after college. As early as the summer after the first year of college, scholars participate in a premiere internship fair held during the first week of January over winter break at Lanman Center on the Yale campus. Increasingly, to be competitive, scholars must improve their interviewing,

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resume writing and public speaking skills to appeal to hiring managers that have high expectations for performance. Many Promise Scholars hail from the most underemployed and unemployed neighborhoods and need to strengthen soft skills that employers articulate they wish to see in prospective hires. Students who are not polished do not receive placements in our internship programs. It is critically important to not only work with scholars who are placed but also to provide some programming for our scholars who wish to be placed in our paid internship program.

The summer internship season runs from late May through August. These three month paid internships are a chance for scholars to practice their soft skills through networking sessions, through extemporaneous speaking opportunities and presenting on their summer projects to their hiring managers and their peers across the university.

Deliverables include:
1. Research various professional development opportunities appropriate for New Haven Promise summer scholar interns.
2. Develop a budget for the PD events, Pecha Kucha event and prizes, National Intern Day and the video recording of Pecha Kucha.
3. Select at least a PD activity for each week throughout the internship season.
4. Organize at least two PD activities for Promise Scholars not placed in internships that will improve their chances for placement in the future.
5. Market and promote PD opportunities and enlist participants throughout the summer.
6. Develop a public speaking event that incorporates the tenets of Pecha Kucha presentations and enlist 10-15 presentations given to an audience of peers with prizes for the top five performers.
7. Organize a judging committee for the Pecha Kucha event.
8. Provide technical assistance to support those planning to participate in the Pecha Kucha event.
9. Arrange to have the Pecha Kucha event taped for later review by the presenters.
10. Assist with the planning of National Intern Day, July 25, 2019 and activities that will showcase at least 3 scholar team presentations.

• List specific skills/experience required for the project:

An ideal candidate for a summer position at New Haven Promise would be a student who is excited about the mission of Promise and committed to the idea that furthering education is the path most likely to change a family and a city. A candidate

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must possess the confidence and charisma to engage urban students and families and the ability to lead them to a desirable outcome by working to galvanize communities toward improved outcomes. Exceptional written and oral communication skills are strongly desired as well as innovative and creative thinking and the desire to learn from multiple perspectives. Good organizing and event planning skills are a must. Be willing to analyze and pivot in a fast-paced working environment are also welcome assets. Able to problem solve through barriers and challenges that may arise. The successful candidate will be able to multitask and learn quickly our culture in order to develop a program that can make an immediate impact. The fellow will have to immerse themselves in a number of activities that will help in understanding our mission and must be a self-starter, able to work independently with minimal supervision, is flexible and can operate in ambiguity. The fellow will be given freedom to develop the program but will receive constructive feedback throughout the process. Able to develop a budget to meet program needs.

- Additional requirements (e.g. a car or weekend working hours). If a car is required, include information regarding parking arrangements and mileage reimbursement):

While a vehicle is helpful, most of the work – event outside of the office – will take place within New Haven and can be reached by public transportation (and the Yale shuttle).

- Briefly describe the work that Yale PPSF Fellows have done with your organization in the past and present. If you have not worked with Yale Fellows, describe any work that Yale students have done with your organization.


Jennifer performed qualitative research (focus groups, data and content analysis) to identify the barriers students faced in college. She developed a survey and made recommendations on how New Haven Promise and its partners can better support college students who struggle or get off track to degree attainment within the four year time period.

Solomon developed a Theory of Change for parent engagement by integrating the Pathways to Promise toolkit developed by College Summit with New Haven Promise’s early Parent Booklet. A parent calendar was created that has college access

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milestones and important dates for activities that can involve parents in the journey toward college matriculation, success and graduation. It has guided our outreach and set the foundation for continued parent involvement.

Jessie developed a near-peer ambassador pilot program that received mention and recognition from The White House Call to Action College Opportunity Day under the Obama administration. The ambassador program was piloted on four campuses – Yale, Gateway to College, Southern Connecticut State University and University of Connecticut. The pilot will be fully implemented in the 2015-2016 academic year.

Carl Chen performed primarily a combination of student engagement and in-house Promise programming before the arrival of current President Patricia Melton. One of his most meaningful initiatives was to design and organize a Promise alumni scholar network that supports scholars through college and to prepare them for their eventual return to New Haven as workers and contributing citizens to their community. An example of a success story involved a freshman Promise scholar, who admitted to having difficulty navigating the social and academic aspect of the University. Another scholar at the event took her under his wing and involved her in the organization he founded to help New Haven youth apply to college. She became the president of that student group.