

Inside Generation Hope: My Experience as a Program Intern

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This semester, I had the privilege of interning with Generation Hope, a non-profit dedicated to supporting student parents in achieving a degree in higher education. Generation Hope accomplishes this by creating a comprehensive network of support through financial assistance, mentorship, community-building events, and the involvement of leaders in education in the greater New Orleans area. I have been incredibly appreciative of the organization for welcoming me into their team throughout these past weeks and giving me insight into the work that goes into running a community organization that successfully serves its population.

Throughout this experience, I have been able to transform my passion for education and opportunity-building into tangible tasks and outcomes. By supporting the recruitment process, mentorship program, and organization of community events, I have effectively expanded my outreach skills for increased community engagement. Further, this internship has reinforced for me the importance of stakeholder engagement in order for non-profits to accomplish their organizational goals. This model has allowed me to form my own relationships with the members of the Generation Hope community, and I have been truly inspired to hear the ideas and perspectives of those involved.

Being involved with this organization has reinforced my understanding of the imperative nature of consistent and strong networks in supporting the needs of our community members. Breaking systemic barriers comes from the engagement of diverse perspectives who can contribute unique support to lift those in need. I have been so impressed by the commitment and engagement of so many members of the New Orleans who have come together to support the organization's mission. As I seek to define my passions related to public health, education, and enhancing well-being, I am grateful for this opportunity to translate my knowledge and skills in these fields from the classroom to the office. Looking toward the future, this internship has exposed me to more ways in which these passions can be aligned and applied in my professional life.

I am looking forward to continuing to intern with Generation Hope next semester and am grateful for the continued support of my team and all who are involved. I am also thankful to Newcomb Institute for providing this opportunity and allowing me to connect on a greater level with the New Orleans community.