

THE 2009 NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Phoenix Project's summer Nonprofit Leadership Program (NLP) is the nation's first statewide initiative to prepare our next generation of social entrepreneurs. The 2009 NLP runs from June 14th to July 25th in Petersburg, Virginia, a city that offers students the opportunity to live and learn in the context of one of the Commonwealth's most distressed communities. Our groundbreaking program combines a fulsome academic experience with a hands-on experiential session where students gain rewarding professional experience working on important capacity-building projects for nonprofit and community leaders. The NLP prepares Virginia's next generation of highly effective social entrepreneurs to bridge the emerging and serious leadership gap in the Commonwealth's nonprofit sector. It exposes young leaders to the challenges of communities in distress and infuses those communities with able hands and minds to assist in revitalization efforts that benefit the Commonwealth as a whole.

THE ACADEMIC SESSION

Held on the scenic campus of Richard Bland College, the academic session allows the class of 30 students to study with a highly regarded faculty, develop skills in workshops run by successful practitioners, put lessons to the test through extensive simulations and meet with Virginia's most accomplished nonprofit, public and private sector entrepreneurs. The Phoenix Project's innovative curriculum, developed in consultation with state and national experts, is fast-paced, intense and hands-on. Students rapidly gain an understanding of the various facets of the nonprofit sector while developing the instincts, courage, relationships and talents that characterize successful social entrepreneurs.

THE EXPERIENTIAL SESSION

During the experiential session, students work with Petersburg nonprofit and municipal organizations to address the city's most pressing economic and community development challenges. Rather than the traditional internship arrangement, in which a student works for a single organization, NLP students engage in teams on projects with numerous organizations with a diverse range of missions, offering an unparalleled breadth of experience. The NLP has students test their new knowledge and abilities while confronting the particular challenges facing communities in distress. Students work closely with local residents and leaders, often assuming a leadership role and becoming familiar with both social entrepreneurs and the people they seek to empower and assist. By the program's end, students have developed and tested critical entrepreneurial knowledge and skills, forged deep bonds with a statewide community of students with similar aspirations and with Virginia's most respected social innovators, and made important contributions to the recovery of a significant Virginia community.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The Phoenix Project enrolls a diverse and talented class of students with a demonstrated commitment to service and leadership and a strong interest in gaining valuable knowledge, skills, connections and experience in nonprofit governance. Undergraduate and graduate students of all academic disciplines from universities across the Commonwealth are eligible to compete for admission.

For more information please contact David Carter, Director of Programs and General Counsel, at (703) 425-3532, email nlp@phoenixproject.org, or visit our website at www.phoenixproject.org.