Babson Board Fellows
2016-2017 Information

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Agenda

- Introduction: What is a Board Fellows Program?
- Decisions Made in the Design of the Program
- A Sampling of Possible Nonprofits and Projects
- How to Apply and Next Steps
What is a Board Fellows Program?

- MBA students sit as non-voting members on nonprofit boards
- Conceived by Stanford MBA students in 1997
- Fellows Gain
  - Experience with high-level strategy
  - The chance to put classroom learnings into action
  - Valuable connections and mentorship
  - The opportunity to give back to their communities
- Fellows support the board by:
  - Offering different viewpoints and insights
  - Serving on board or project committees
  - Completing small projects of use for the board
Babson Board Fellows Mission:

The Mission of Babson Board Fellows is to:

- Allow Babson students and alumni to apply the skills gained in the MBA to real challenges
- Support the boards of nonprofit organizations by pairing them with the skills, talent, and creativity of Babson MBAs
- Prepare Babson MBAs for community leadership roles through placement as non-voting members on nonprofit boards
Examples of Projects Performed or Worked on by Fellows

- Board evaluation and benchmarking
- CEO selection and evaluation
- Best practice benchmarking
- Planned giving strategies
- Research on potential expansion
- 10 year strategic planning
- Strategy implications for donor expansion
- Financial management and revenue modeling
2016-2017 Program Overview

- Two Fellows will be matched with each board
- Board service runs September 2016 to April 2017
- Four (4) in person meetings of the Babson cohort per year
- Projects and committee involvement are based on the needs of the organization
- No-credit is given for participation, but students may choose to propose an independent study
- Board Fellows is managed by Gene Miller of The Lewis Institute for Social Innovation
2015-2016 Nonprofit Partners

- Cantata Singers
- Partners for Youth with Disabilities
- Special Olympics of Massachusetts
- Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands
- Belmont World Film
- Wellesley Cancer Prevention Project

Please note: nonprofit partners subject to change each year
How Nonprofits are Screened

A functioning Board that can benefit from a Fellow but also offer support and guidance. Indicators:

- Does the Board meet regularly?
- Do they have functioning Board committees?
- Do they have a Board member that can serve as a mentor/contact for the Board Fellow and direct him/her throughout the fellowship?
- Do they have an idea for a project that could be done by a Board fellow?
- Do they have a budget of at least $100K per year?
  - Risk is that smaller budgets will reflect greater needs and greater pressures on the fellow. If a “start-up” is accepted, Fellow must have experience with nonprofits and be heavily invested in the mission.
Past Feedback

Students talk about what they liked:

- “...Getting to see suspected board issues play out in front of me. e.g. the tension between board membership being about financial support versus strategic support.”

Non-profits talk about what they liked:

- “A real win-win”.
- “They beauty of this program is that it gives us board members without us having to go recruit them”
Application Process and Timeline
How Fellows are Screened

Application process:
- Written application
- Resume
- Possibility of interviews for finalists

Screening for:
- Commitment to complete a project and devote necessary hours
- Skills (both hard and soft) that will be useful for the Board
- Interest in/commitment to the mission of the organization (students list and rank interest areas)
- Screening conducted by student leaders, faculty, and staff
How Are Boards and Fellows Matched?

- Students are matched based on experience, interests, and commitment to mission of organization.
- Needs of the nonprofits are taken into account during the matching process.
- Nonprofits receive copies of selected Fellows’ resumes to help determine the best way to utilize their Fellows’ skills and strengths based on the organization’s needs.
Babson Board Fellows Timeline

- July 11, 2016: Applications are due
- Late July 2016: Phone or Skype interviews (if appropriate)
- Early August 2016: Applicants notified; final 2016-2017 Babson Board Fellows cohort announced
- Mid-August 2016: Fellows are matched with nonprofit boards and introduced virtually to begin a conversation and relationship
- Early September 2016: Required training session for Babson Board Fellows
- September 2016-April 2017: Board service duration. Fellows will participate in a total four trainings and networking events to discuss their experiences and learn from other Fellows, the Board Fellows Advisor, and guest speakers.
- April 2017: Formal Board Service ends
Thank You

QUESTIONS?

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