ADVANCE! Leadership Experience
Project Guidelines

Fieldwork Practicum Description:
The fieldwork component of the ADVANCE! leadership program offers students the opportunity to integrate theory and practice. Students work with their Fieldwork Coordinator to explore a professional interest and attain exposure to that industry. Together, they design a leadership project in which the student takes an active leadership role. Throughout the 8-10 week experience, students utilize the key learnings from ADVANCE! to explore the work environment and accomplish the aims set forth in their leadership project. The experience is critical in the student’s decision to continue seeking leadership opportunities in that field. Students present the results of their leadership experiences at the ADVANCE! Culmination.

Criteria for Leadership Projects:
The Fieldwork Coordinator is invited to submit a potential project that the student team member can work on. This will be utilized for the matching. However, the determination of the final project should be a joint effort between the student and the supervisor. Our research indicates that successful projects comparable to the ADVANCE! leadership experience enlist input from both the supervisor and the student for complete buy-in from both parties.

Criteria for fieldwork projects:
1. Feasible – can be accomplished during the agreed upon timeframe
2. Measurable – outcomes can be easily distinguished
3. Specific – objectives are clear and it is understood between the supervisor and student what needs to be achieved for the project to be completed
4. Promote Leadership – while it is not required that the student be “the lead” on a project, the project should present opportunities for leadership development. A direct connection should be evident between the student’s role in the project and skill building opportunities. For example, an ADVANCE! participant might determine that they want to practice the following skills: communication, leadership style, time management, negotiation, delegation, managing group dynamics, working in a multicultural environment, building collaborative partnerships, etc. With your assistance, they create a project that includes elements that allow them to practice and actively engage in a range of these skills.

Fieldwork Logistics:
Students enter the ADVANCE! program committed to dedicating 10-15 hours/week to their leadership project. Should the project require less time, the student and Fieldwork Coordinator can create a more appropriate timeline. The ADVANCE! program provides MetroCards to and from the sites. There is no financial cost to the partners.