

PEAC Cornell Chapter

Objectives

We aim to bridge the education gap between economic classes for students in NYC public schools. Our target demographic is children in low income areas, especially people of color. Not every public school student has equal opportunities and we want to change that. Education on financial literacy, investment, STEM, and social issues is a crucial stepping stone to help disadvantaged students to succeed. These topics are rarely taught in schools and they may not get the chance to learn it from their parents.

Execution

We will recruit volunteers and create lesson plans. Lessons will be in the format of slide presentations presented over zoom calls with students. Optimal time would be 30 minutes per lesson followed by 15 minute “assessments” to evaluate their understanding of the topic. To measure our success, we will have our participants take a quiz on kid-friendly platforms such as Kahoot! after every session and a final assessment at the end of the course. We aim to make the sessions as fun and interactive as possible to keep students engaged and active, so we also want to create a reward system to encourage their participation.

Joining the organization is a way for students to do community service and make a positive impact on their community. They will also be able to network with speakers from different professional industries and listen to their seminars. More incentives TBD.

Tentative Timeline

Summer 2020:

- Recruit team for Cornell Chapter
- Recruit people interested in NYC
- Create banners, social media posts

Fall 2020:

- Pitch idea on campus and recruits members from Cornell
- Club Fest (due to COVID - this may be online)
- Online Info Sessions
- Organize teams to lead and create lessons on topics
- Research and make connections with public schools
- Create lesson plans/presentations

January 2020:

- Start hosting virtual sessions with students
- Make adjustments to lesson plans after holding a few sessions

Possible Partnerships

Apart from activities in NYC, we can do collaborations with other outreach organizations in Ithaca. Cornell has a club called REACH which tutors local students. Although there will most likely not be in person activities, we could work with them to create an online educational session as well as tutor. Moreover, we can reach out to schools from low-income areas and invite those students to participate in our online sessions.

Challenges and Obstacles

Although NYC results in a bigger impact, students from Cornell may be hesitant to provide help for students in a city they have no connections to, making this program appealing to students from NYC only.

Another obstacle including NYC is communication and travel between Ithaca and NYC. For now, remote learning due to the pandemic makes it easy to communicate with students anywhere. However, when everything goes back to normal, it would be difficult for mentors to travel between Ithaca and NYC to teach their mentees.

To address the challenges, we will check in with our participants individually in the beginning of the course. We will also send a Google form after a few lessons to gather students' feedback so we can make appropriate changes to improve virtual learning. Since in-person meeting isn't a feasible option as of right now, we will rely on communication to be done heavily online via Zoom. Participants can email the volunteers as well to schedule meetings to go over certain topics or any personal issues. Furthermore, assuming most of our participants have set schedules during the day to attend school, we will conduct our session in the night and possibly have the same session on the weekend again to provide more options for students.

Industry Advisors

We look to connect with advisors in finance, computer science, and social science.