



THE SMALL SCHOOLS RESIDENCY

The Small Schools Residency is a cooperative project between the Oakland Small Schools Foundation and the Nonprofit & Public Management Program at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business. The Residency provides MBA students at the Haas School of Business and MPP students at the Goldman School of Public Policy with the opportunity to engage directly in innovative education reform through a hands-on, 8-month residency with an Oakland small school. Launched in 2005, the program has already begun to expand the pipeline of top leadership and management talent into this rich and dynamic field.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The groundbreaking Small Schools Residency offers MBAs and MPPs real-time access to the complex, rigorous challenges facing leaders in the education sector. Working directly with entrepreneurial small school principals, students develop a better understanding of both the challenges facing schools in low-income areas and some of the most promising innovations in education reform—all while building their professional networks and engaging with top leaders in the field.

Beyond the satisfaction of making a real difference, the Residency experience for students includes:

- * A high-level project working directly for a principal.
- * Application of business concepts to education organizations.
- * Access to top leaders on the cutting edge of education reform.
- * Discussion of case studies and best practice frameworks.
- * Facilitated school visits.
- * Community with like-minded MBAs and MPPs.

RESULTS FOR SMALL SCHOOLS

During their Residency, students make an immediate impact on our community's most underserved children by strengthening the management and business operations of their host schools. Projects can include all aspects of running a school, including analyzing student achievement data, planning events, developing fundraising campaigns and grants, implementing surveys, conducting focus groups, preparing presentations, and marketing/public relations planning and implementation.

Ultimately, whether or not students take jobs in the education sector after graduate school, they leave the program more motivated and better equipped to confront the greatest civil rights issue of our time.

IMPACT

Last year, just one member of the Haas full-time MBA Class of 2005 took a full-time job in the education sector (out of 240 students), while three members of the Class of 2006 worked in education for their summer internships.

After the launch of the OSSF Small School Residency, at least **six** members of the Class of 2006 are expected to take full-time jobs in the education sector, and **seven** members of the Class of 2007 plan to take summer internships in the field of education.



In 2005-2006, three OSSF Small Schools Residents helped the small elementary school Think College Now fulfill its mission: To provide every student with the tools to choose their life's path and desired occupation, with an equitable opportunity to attend college and pursue their dreams.

"Thanks to the Residency program, I am graduating Haas ready to take on challenges in the education sector and already looking forward to the day where we can say that all kids across the US will graduate high school ready for college."

Delphine Sherman
Haas MBA 2006

"The Oakland Small Schools Foundation provides a unique opportunity for our business and public policy students to exercise their considerable skills on behalf of the critical challenge of equity in public education."

Nora Silver, Ph.D.
Director, Nonprofit and Public Management
Haas School of Business