Through a Partnership, a New Workforce is Born!

This summer, high school students from the Simon Scholars Program had an opportunity to complete a two week internship at America's Promise Alliance in Washington, D.C. The students, who regularly attend Cesar Chavez Public Charter School for Public Policy, were introduced to office skills, research and writing skills while working on their contributions to a special edition of the Impact Network Monthly. The students selected the community issues below with an emphasis on how they relate to Grad Nation and the dropout crisis affecting our youth.

- **Obesity**
- **Learning Disabilities**
- **Teen Pregnancy**
- **Role Models**

### Obesity

“Many people in Tucson, AZ struggle with obesity. It's an issue that can have serious mental and physical ramifications, especially in kids and young adults. I am grateful that Tucson is actively fighting against obesity by improving health education and providing healthier food options in schools.”

- Emma Finklestein

Grad Nation Community - Tuscon, AZ

Read more about obesity

### Learning Disabilities

“Throughout high school, I knew students with learning disabilities. These kids were not too different from the rest of us and were also in advanced level courses where they had specific teachers who would help them with their work. In many cases, the aides were great at communicating and providing that extra resource. However, the biggest drawback I noticed was that these students didn't get help outside the classroom and in social situations. This often seemed to make it harder for them to interact and fit in reiterating the idea that we need to focus to ensure they have interactions with the community as a whole.”

- Justin Blake

Grad Nation Community - Durham, NC
Teen Pregnancy

"Even though the rate of teen pregnancy has decreased nationwide, there are still many communities that are struggling with this issue. In Detroit, for example, it has been decreasing slowly, but is still relatively high for minorities. Due to the weak economy, the lack of alternative options, and struggling school systems, many pregnant teens are forced to drop out and raise their children in poverty. The massive budget cuts and large amounts of school closures reduce the likelihood for success. Therefore, teens that lack the education and resources regarding teen pregnancy are at a greater risk of not only getting pregnant, but also dropping out of school."

- Moriam Aigoro
Grad Nation Community - Detroit, MI

Role Models

“If I had to choose one variable that determined success at my high school, it would be the role models in my fellow students' lives. Those who had strong parents or teachers or coaches were ones who beat the odds and succeeded in the classroom. With a role model, a student tells themselves 'I want to be like that person.' Then the student draws a path to fulfill their goals and aspirations, knowing that one day they will reflect their role model. For me, it was my parents and older sister whom I sought to imitate; for others, it was a basketball coach or church pastor. Ultimately, we can all recognize the impact our role models had on us and we must be inspired to become mentors ourselves for the next generation of high school students."

- John Morgan
Grad Nation Community - Atlanta, GA

Impact Scale - How can YOU make a difference?

**Obesity**

- Eating healthy doesn't have to cost you a boat load of money. Here are some tips on how to eat healthy on a budget. For those who struggle economically, this site will definitely help you stay on the right track.
- Sign up today and start living a healthy lifestyle to stay fit. The Let's Move! campaign was primarily created to shine light on the childhood obesity epidemic in America.

**Learning Disabilities**

- Get involved by participating in the “Walk now for Autism Speaks” to help generate vital funds for autism research and raising awareness. Find a walk near you now.
- Become a buddy with the Best Buddies Organization and support an individual with a learning disability. Your support will help to establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- If you are a high school or college student interested in connecting with parents, delivering resources and developing policies, the National Center for Learning Disabilities has the opportunities for you. Fill out an application here.

**Teen Pregnancy**

- Make sure you know the facts about Teen Pregnancy with the help of DoSomething.org.
- Celebrate the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy in May. It raises awareness about
Role Models

- Take the mentor's pledge.
- Young adults are giving a great opportunity to work with Campfire USA as a role model to the campers. This organization wants great, helpful teens to intern with the campers.

About Impact Network

The Impact Network, an alliance of young leaders from across the nation, unites and empowers youth to take action through and with the support of Alliance partners to address the challenges facing their communities. Impact Network members are crucial contributors to the principal goal of America's Promise Alliance—leveraging the Five Promises framework to help America's most disadvantaged youth and contributing to the Grad Nation campaign.

Be part of something BIG! We want to hear from YOU. Submit newsletter theme ideas or volunteer to write for Impact Network Monthly.