Breakthrough Collaborative | www.breakthroughsf.org

- Teaching Fellow; Full-time, 60 hours per week
- Unpaid but receiving Career Center Internship Grant

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
Interns teach two blocks per day (math, science, literature, or writing) to 5th through 8th grade students. Additionally, interns teach an elective and advisory class. Throughout the day, interns have one-on-one or department meetings with their instructional coaches during off-blocks and attend professional development and career panels in the evening. After school hours, interns write lesson plans about a week in advance, plan for parent-teacher conferences, and write end-of-summer reports. Interns also serve on committees that put on Friday events: College Day, Family Day, Career Day, and Celebration.

How did you find your internship?
I was introduced to Breakthrough through a classmate who worked at Breakthrough Cambridge.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
The most enjoyable part was the sense of community created by the 32 teaching fellows and 5 administrators. The teachers ranged in age from rising college sophomores to recent grads and came from some of the top tier colleges in the country. The faculty were dedicated to maintaining high expectations for students and forming strong personal ties with them and their families, which made my work extremely purposeful. Daily meetings with our instructional coaches, weekly professional development and monthly career panels, allowed for enormous growth throughout the summer and an opportunity for interns to network with a wide variety of educational professionals. All of these pieces resulted in a professional and devoted working environment that I hope to find in future jobs.

What do you find challenging?
The long hours and heavy work-load were the most challenging part. School ran from 8am-4:15pm, but teachers arrived as early as 6:30am to prepare and didn’t leave until around 6:30pm. There was always more to be done after leaving: lesson plans, prep for parent-teacher conferences, committee work, etc., depending on week day or part of the summer. I typically worked until 9:30 or 10pm each night.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
My experience was extremely rewarding and validating, in large part because of the people I was surrounded with. I was lucky enough to have lived in a dorm with ten of my colleagues, which made after school work much more enjoyable and enriching. I would recommend that people looking to pursue a similar internship immerse themselves in the community of teachers as much as possible. Working with a co-teacher and an 8-person department meant that I was always collaborating. There is a plethora of resources in the realm of education, and in many situations it is futile to reinvent the wheel. Use the more experienced teachers to your advantage; both their resources and advice are extremely valuable. Use your free time on weekends to form ties with teachers in a non-academic setting because it makes time spent at school that much more fun and rewarding! The early action deadline for this program is in early January and the regular decision deadline is in late February.

About the Organization
Breakthrough Collaborative; San Francisco, CA

We believe all children should have access to an excellent education and highly effective teachers. We provide intensive, year-round academic enrichment and support to elementary, middle, and high school students with limited educational opportunities, helping them attend four-year colleges.