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Hispanic Committee of Virginia
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This summer I completed an internship with the Hispanic Committee of Virginia, a non-profit organization that provides a variety of services for Hispanics living in the Northern Virginia area. I volunteered with the entrepreneurial program, which aimed to provide a financial education to Hispanic citizens in the neighborhood and make it possible for them to become leaders in the community. Other programs included family services and tax assistance. My official role within the Hispanic Entrepreneurial program was that of business plan competition coordinator.

The business plan competition was an initiative of the Entrepreneurial program meant to simultaneously promote potential entrepreneurs to formalize their ideas and to make it possible for the most promising contestants to start their businesses. It consisted of an initial stage in which contestants submitted their business plans. The plans were graded in their written form according to a rubric, the top ten plans will be presented orally by the contestants at the competition's final event. The top three plans receive prizes in the form of cash, low interest loans, free legal advice, etc... Besides determining the structure of the competition I also organized fundraising events, managed press releases, secured a venue for the final event, and obtained the services of qualified judges free of charge.

Having successfully organized the business plan competition I then had the pleasure of working with the contestants and guiding them through the process of completing their business plans. This process included the careful study of sample business plans and then helping the contestants format their ideas in accordance to universal standards. Furthermore I used online databases to gather a variety of data such as consumer demographics and competition, then drew inferences from that data and applied it to their plans. It was incredibly rewarding seeing the contestants I worked with come closer to realizing their dreams.

Overall my internship proved to be a meaningful experience in multiple ways. It provided me with valuable insight into the logistics necessary for production and organization in the real world. Furthermore, I developed my communication skills, both in person and through email. I gained experience working with business concepts and am now an expert on the structure of a business plan. Perhaps most significant was the opportunity, at such a young age, to feel the pleasure of making a genuine impact in the lives of people around me.