

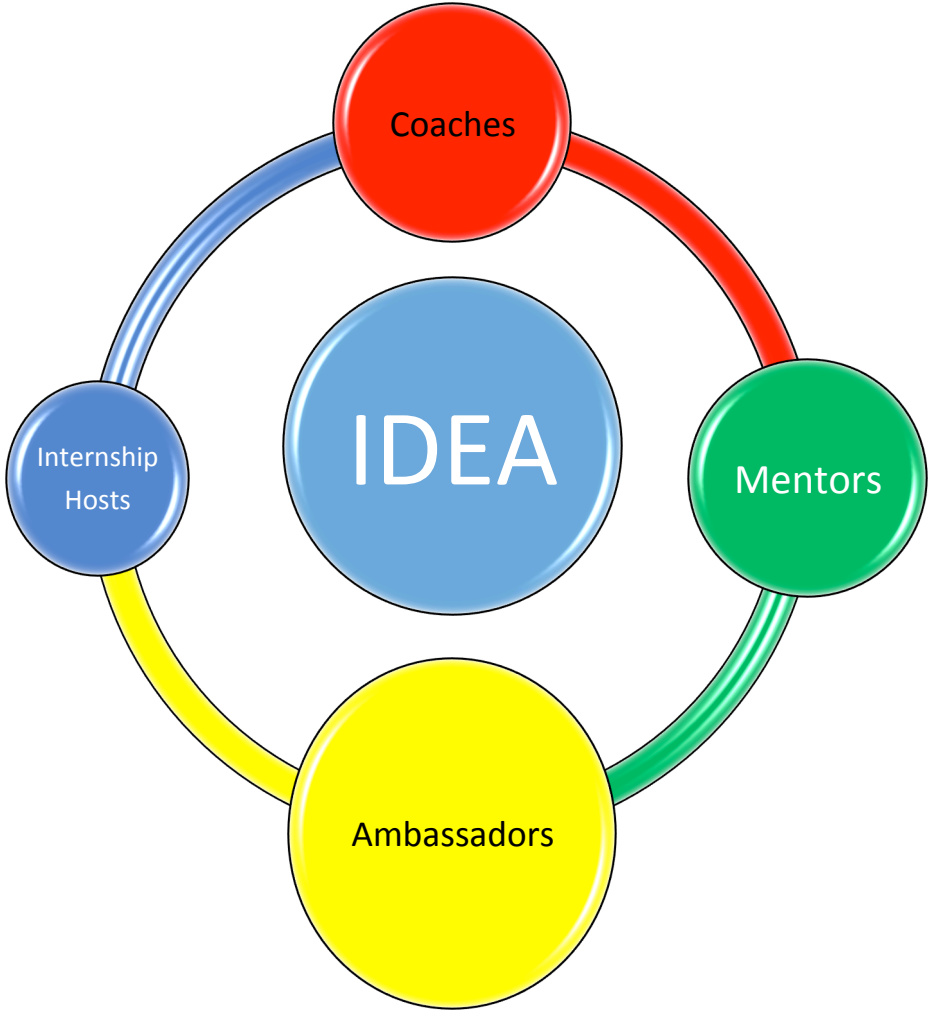
Final Report for the Community Engagement Fellows

2015-2016

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I set out to create a community engagement program for the IDEA Institute. The name we currently use is IDEA Circles.

The aim was to pilot a program that created four circles of involvement with the IDEA Institute for community members.



The diagram above illustrates the four different areas including coaches, mentors, ambassadors and Internship Hosts. During my time as a CE fellow, I launched the pilot program inviting people to all the different roles but concentrating on implementing the coaching role. The size reflects where we expect quantity of people to land.

Role Definitions

Coaches. Coaches are people that work with our students on projects. They have the opportunity to join in with the program multiple times during the regular course of the quarter and are able to see students progress across multiple quarters.

Mentors. Mentors are people that are connected to individual students will play the role of advisor, supporter, door-opener and networker. We will launch this program more fully in Fall 2016.

Ambassadors. These are people who will be kept hyper informed and equipped to tell the IDEA story. They will get special invitations to events and will interact with students in less formal ways.

Internship Hosts. The hosts will have a special relationship with IDEA as a place where our students regularly find internship opportunities throughout the year.

My intention is for all of the above roles is that each has a training/onboarding program, regular two-way feedback and mechanism for recognition for excellence.

Results So Far

Since launching in Feb 2016, we have had 21 community members agree to play different roles, and some are playing multiple roles. All have agreed to be ambassadors, 16 coaches, 8 mentors and 2 internship hosts.

During the last two quarters, we've provided 8 coaching opportunities in the classroom. This has resulted in 17 different coaches participating (some are not official in the program), dozens of one-on-one interactions with students, hundreds of pieces of feedback and a whole lot of community engagement excitement!

We provided a small training in advance for the coaches. This will be more formalized as we go forward. The emphasis was on helping them understand what we are (an inclusive educational program that meets students where they are) and what we are not (shark tank where we treat people with derision).

Moving Forward

This is becoming an official program of the IDEA Institute and therefore staffing time beyond my own will be invested. We expect to further develop each of the programs and to have this fully public on our web site in its next version. We will highlight community leaders that engage successfully with us and have student commentary on the benefits.

I have high expectations for this program. It is our new approach to engagement beyond the traditional 'form an advisory board'. I believe it will have much greater impact, result in higher levels of engagement and be a lot of fun for all.

Reflection

I appreciate the opportunity to participate as a CE Fellow. The regular interaction with my peers helped me think through this work and to keep it on track. Thanks for it all and I look forward to next year!