The Spartan Engagement Ambassador (SEA) Program fosters mutually beneficial partnerships between Michigan State University students and municipal departments/regional development organizations in order to cultivate a dynamic learning environment that prepares students for practical challenges, while addressing the evolving needs of local communities.

The program will:

1. Provide students with hands-on experience: By immersing students in municipal departments/regional development organizations, they gain practical skills, insights, and professional development opportunities that complement the learning which occurs in academic settings.

2. Support community-driven initiatives: Through collaborative projects with municipal departments, students contribute meaningfully to the enhancement and sustainability of local communities. By addressing real-world challenges, students develop a deeper understanding of civic responsibility and engagement.

3. Foster interdisciplinary collaboration: The SEA program encourages continuous integration of diverse ideas and perspectives not only in discourse but through programming and community impact.

4. Cultivate civic leadership and professional growth: Through mentorship, networking opportunities, and reflective practices, students will develop the leadership qualities and professional competencies necessary to effect positive change.

5. Promote lifelong learning and civic engagement: The program instills a commitment to lifelong learning and civic engagement in student-participants. By encouraging students to critically reflect on their experiences and engage with local stakeholders and cohort peers, participants will build a sense of civic responsibility that extends beyond graduation.

6. Partnership: The program increases the capacity of partner organizations and creates opportunities for perspective sharing, idea generation, and positive outcomes.
In pursuit of these objectives, the Spartan Engagement Ambassador Program seeks to bridge the gap between academia and the public sector, fostering a culture of innovation, collaboration, and community impact. Together, participants, partner organizations and MSU staff aspire to empower the next generation of leaders to create positive change in our interconnected world.

**Position Specifics:**
- 6 undergraduate positions available
- Program runs from August 2024-April 2025
- Education stipend/ project pay (approximately $2500/semester)
- 10-12 hours average/week, No less than an 8-10 hour/week commitment at a partner site (municipality or regional development organization)
- Majority of this time will be scheduled between 8am-6pm, Monday-Friday with some/ limited evening and weekend availability
- Required cohort meetings at least twice monthly for professional development and reflective learning
- Required supervisor meetings bi-weekly
- Training and Orientation Required
- An ideal applicant for this position will be curious, comfortable with ambiguity of work, adaptable, and have interest in working with municipalities, civic engagement, town-gown relations, and bolstering the communities around us.
- All Ambassadors must have a minimum 2.5 and be in good standing with the University

**Program Overview:**
- The MSU Spartan Engagement Ambassador Program is a program offered by the Office of Community & Student Relations and MSU Government Relations in partnership with regional development organizations and municipalities.
  Ambassadors will be paired with departments within municipalities or with regional development organizations to expand their learning and understanding of municipal and development operations.
- This program requires that students spend no less than 8-10 hours a week working with partner organizations. Average engagement in the overall program is 10-12 hours per week.
- Students will participate in a cohort which will meet twice a month and consist of community building, professional development, and reflective learning.
- An end of year reception will be held, Ambassadors will present their learning and experiences.
- Students will receive stipend project pay (approximately $2500 a semester) that will be distributed monthly.