College students face a world with cancelled internships, growing and glaring inequality, and millions fewer jobs. For low-income students and students of color in particular, the road to opportunity just got a lot longer and a lot steeper.

We can help. Our Semester in the City program offers life-changing internships for a full semester of academic credit — an inspirational model for a troubled world. Our program challenges and delights students and delivers skills and results — including a big jump in career outcomes. And not just any career. Our mission is to educate and inspire the next generation of problem solvers — students committed to careers addressing the urgent issues we face in our society — from public health and racial justice to food security, education, and climate change.

We understand how challenging a time this is for our community and our world and know you likely have already made many heartfelt donations to vital causes. Please consider adding our Access Fund to your list and contributing to make it easier for low-income students and other under-represented students to participate in our program and become lifelong problem solvers for good. **We currently offer a $2000 discount to Pell-eligible students at many of our partner colleges, and are adding ten $1,000 Changemaker Scholarships while also further investing in our capacity to enroll and support our lowest-income students.** In July, we will be adding four AmeriCorps VISTAs to our team to better support low-income and other under-represented students and we’re providing extra affordable housing support to these VISTAs, three of whom are graduates of our program. Your contribution to our Access Fund can make all of these efforts and more possible.

Many studies show that “high-impact learning” programs like ours work and open doors of opportunity. But the same studies show that lower-income students, first-generation students, and students of color access these programs at much lower rates. We are committing to changing that equation and are having initial success. **But we need to do more.**

In addition to doubling down on student access, we are committed to helping the 112 amazing social impact organizations that have hosted one or more of our Fellows over the last four years. Due to the severe challenges COVID-19 has created in the nonprofit sector, this fall we are offering all our partners a 50% discount on our very low host organization fee (they’ll contribute $350 instead of $700).

**Donations in June will be matched one-to-one up to $25,000 by the Devonshire Foundation. Please be a changemaker today!**

PS: This is our first grassroots fundraising campaign since our founding almost five years ago. See a list below of some of our milestones and accomplishments since we enrolled our first 14 students in fall 2016:

- Built partnerships with [13 leading colleges and universities](https://www.collegeforthesocialinnovation.org/partners/) that allow their students to do our program for a full semester of academic credit. We believe these partnerships represent an important reform and innovation for higher education and look forward to working with our partners to do the necessary step of reinventing college for the post-COVID era;
- Partnered with [112 social impact organizations](https://www.collegeforthesocialinnovation.org/partners/) to develop the next generation of problem solvers and a social change workforce that is bigger, better prepared, and more diverse;
- Graduated 237 Social Innovation Fellows — each of whom has completed an intensive internship, a special project, a team-based Human Centered Design project, a Ted-style Talk, and a whole lot more. See some of the Talks here (LINK);
- Raised $5.7 million in philanthropy and $3 million in earned revenue. This year we covered a majority of all costs (52 percent) with earned revenue, including tuition paid by our college partners, housing fees paid by our students (and eligible to be covered in most cases by financial aid), and a small host fee paid by the social impact partners who host our students. We project earned revenue will cover 80+ percent of all costs within three years;
- Contributed research and ideas to the larger dialogue around higher education reform, talent development, and social innovation through conference presentations, blogs and articles, and chapters in books.
- Along the way we’ve built an amazing staff team — the wonderful humans that recruit, enroll, support, and teach every one of our students. Meet our staff team here.
- We are poised to grow — and grow safely — even amidst the current pandemic. See our COVID-19 statement here.

— Eric Schwarz, CEO and Co-Founder of College for Social Innovation