

BRAVEN PROFESSIONAL MENTOR PROGRAM

WHAT IS BRAVEN?

In America, we've promised that hard work and ambition will be met with equality of opportunity. The reality is that we have a quiet crisis on our hands. An African American with a college degree is twice as likely to be unemployed as their white counterpart, and a college graduate from a low-income background will typically start their career earning only 66% as much as those from higher-income backgrounds. While education has the potential to be the great equalizer, today, only 25% of our country's 1.2 million first-generation or low-income college enrollees will land a strong job after graduation and be on a path to the American Dream. Amid the current global health and economic crisis, unemployment and underemployment will sky-rocket, and students from humble beginnings will be disproportionately at risk.

Now more than ever, college students from humble beginnings need to be prepared to compete for strong jobs. These students have done everything right, have earned the right to compete, and have an outsized ability to ensure the economic recovery of our nation.

Braven empowers promising, underrepresented young people – first-generation college students, students from low-income backgrounds, and students of color – with the skills, confidence, experiences and networks necessary to transition from college to strong first jobs, which lead to meaningful careers and lives of impact.

WHAT IS THE PROFESSIONAL MENTOR PROGRAM?

We know that securing that first job after college is so important to a young professional's trajectory because it is where they begin to gain hands-on workforce experience, develop their professional identities, and establish their long-term earning potential. As a Professional Mentor, you play a critical role in the successful transition from college to career and ensure Fellows know how to play the game.

You will be matched with a Braven Fellow who is a **college junior, senior, or recent graduate and searching for a career accelerating internship or full-time job.** For 12 weeks, you will help your mentee navigate the job / internship application process and help develop their professional skills through real-world application in weekly, one-hour meetings. Braven will provide helpful tools and frameworks to guide you and help ensure you are making progress. You will work with your mentee to ensure their professional portfolio (resume, LinkedIn, cover letter, etc.) is polished and that they practice critical professional skills, such as interviewing and communicating to prepare them for the workforce.

WHAT IS THE COMMITMENT?

- **Duration:** 12 weeks, from February 12 - May 6
- **Location:** Virtual
- **Time Commitment:** The anticipated time commitment is **25-30** hours:
 - **~1.5 hrs per week** (suggested 1 hour meeting with your mentee and 30 minutes of preparation/ follow up)
 - One **3 hour** kickoff event: **TBD**
 - One **1 hour** mid-commitment check-in

WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES?

- Guide your Fellow through the steps of **job attainment** and help them develop **professional polish**
- Serve as an **advocate and cheerleader**
- Keep Braven staff updated on your mentee's progress by filling out **weekly progress forms**

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THIS PROGRAM?

- 77% of Fellows who have graduated have obtained a strong first job
- 77% of Fellows found the program to be helpful in achieving their career goals
- 93% of Professional Mentors agree that participating in the program was worth the time invested

WHAT SUPPORTS WILL A MENTOR HAVE ACCESS TO?

As a Professional Mentor, you will have access to a hub of Braven resources, including suggested discussion topics, resume supports, and cover letter guides, etc. You will also have the backing of a peer community of other Braven Professional Mentors and a Braven staff member if you have any questions or need guidance.

WHO ARE THE STUDENTS?

Braven Fellows are students and graduates from Braven's four partner universities: San Jose State University, Rutgers University - Newark, Lehman College (CUNY), and National Louis University. They are often the first in their family to attend college and come from underserved backgrounds. Through a credit-bearing Accelerator course, Braven Fellows develop in five key professional competencies. Trained professionals from local employers lead cohorts of 5-8 students, building their professional networks and exposure. After the course, Fellows receive additional opportunities to develop leadership and career-readiness skills, engage in an enduring network, and stay on track to securing strong internships and jobs. Fellows participating in this Professional Mentors Program are juniors, seniors, or recent graduates who are preparing to get their first strong job.

HOW CAN I BECOME A MENTOR?

Please complete an application on [Braven's website](#).