



Leadership Challenge Month

September 8 – October 20, 2015

Test and strengthen your leadership and problem-solving abilities by participating in a seven-week, real-world internship experience. From September 8 to October 20, 2015, you and a small group of your peers will attempt to solve real problems facing Central Ohio businesses and non-profits. Build your competitive edge, gain valuable project and team experiences, receive guidance from Ohio State Faculty, and meet influential Columbus professionals and Ohio State alumni through your participation. Leadership Challenge Month is organized by the Office of Student Life's Buckeye Leadership Fellows Program and hosted in partnership with the Office of Distance Education and eLearning (ODEE). [To view a brief video describing Leadership Challenge Month, click here.](#)

Challenge Month Partner Organizations – Last Updated: 8/13/15

1. [COSI](#)
2. [City Year Columbus](#)
3. [BESA & HandsOn Central Ohio](#)
4. [STEAM Factory](#)
5. [Greater Columbus Arts Council](#)
6. Royal Oak Institute
7. Various Ohio State Faculty Projects

Learning Outcomes

Students who participate in Leadership Challenge Month:

- Engage in “problem-based learning” (Bridges & Hallinger, 1997) by: (a) navigating a problem or opportunity currently facing a Columbus-based corporation or non-profit; (b) researching, designing, and creating a solution which fully addresses the problem or opportunity, and (c) presenting and implementing their realistic and full solution to the problem or opportunity
- Hone their leadership effectiveness by contributing to the work of a team focused on creating positive change for an organization
- Build self-awareness and apply it to work in a multidisciplinary team
- Distinguish the elements of an effective pitch, and compose and deliver a pitch
- Identify and practice appropriate networking behaviors with talented peers, alumni, and community leaders
- Construct and deliver a formal presentation
- Evaluate their work and that of their peers by exchanging constructive feedback

Space is limited.

For more information visit blf.osu.edu or email Sarah Mangia (mangia.15@osu.edu).

Register at go.osu.edu/2015LeadershipChallenge by Friday, September 4 at 11:59p.m.!

Leadership Challenge Month: Requirements and Structure

Students *must* attend the following meetings and workshops to be eligible to participate:

- Tuesday, September 8: Leadership Challenge Month Kickoff
- Tuesday, September 15: Challenge Announcements
- Tuesday, September 22: Project Management 101 Workshop
- Tuesday, September 29: Team Dynamics Workshop
- Tuesday, October 6: Pitches and Presentations Workshop
- Tuesday, October 13: Networking Workshop
- Tuesday, October 20: Final Presentations



These required meetings and workshops are hosted each week from **4-5:30p.m.** in the **Ohio Union** (room varies by date), 1739 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43210.

Tuesday, September 8: Leadership Challenge Month Kickoff

This evening sets the tone for the Leadership Challenge Month. In a fast-paced format, students are introduced to Leadership Challenge concept, host program, stakeholders involved, and learning outcomes. Then, participants are grouped into their challenge teams, receive their Ohio State Faculty and professional mentors, and have a preliminary conversation about their expectations of one another.

Tuesday, September 15: Challenge Announcements

In this meeting, students are joined by Ohio State Faculty mentors and Leadership Challenge Partner organizations. Each partner offers an overview of their organization and the task facing their challenge groups. When applicable, student teams travel off-campus to their organizational location to better understand the problem or opportunity they will address over the coming six-weeks.

Tuesday, September 22: Project Management 101 Workshop

This is the first of four developmental workshops that participants experience. To ensure that students understand the basics of project management, a local professional hosts a workshop on the key elements of effective projects, outlines a project process, and highlights helpful habits to consider. Students then divide into their challenge teams to create their own project process - which they will use to guide their work over the remaining five-weeks.

Tuesday, September 29: Team Dynamics Workshop

In this workshop, students take a leadership inventory and process the results with a trained facilitator – learning more about themselves and how their leadership style interacts with others. Then, students circle into their challenge teams and discuss how their results impact their understanding of their team's dynamic and functioning. This workshop focuses on building self-awareness and directly translating it to their leadership challenge, offering students the tools they need to more effectively navigate their team dynamics.

Tuesday, October 6: Pitches and Presentations Workshop

This third developmental workshop builds students' capacities to effectively communicate their ideas and gain buy-in from others. Students receive a brief presentation on the mechanics of effective public speaking, idea development, and presentation. Then, students break out into their challenge teams to apply these concepts to their challenge work. The evening concludes with teams delivering their newly formed pitches to the broader student audience.

Tuesday, October 13: Networking Workshop

The final installment of our developmental workshop series, this workshop builds students' social capital and professional skills – training them in the behaviors for successful networking. Facilitated by a local professional, this workshop is structured to take students from theory to practice: walking students through the networking fundamentals and then immediately providing them the opportunity to apply their new knowledge as they network in a room with Columbus professionals. Beyond building this critical skill, the relationships students form in this setting may directly benefit their challenge work, connect them to future internships, or lead to careers.

Tuesday, October 20: Final Presentations

As the conclusion of our Leadership Challenge Month experience, student teams offer their final presentations on their work and/or recommendations to the partner organization. Challenge partners hear these presentations, engage in Q&A sessions with each team, and make evaluations on the quality of the work. While challenge partners deliberate on the presentations, students engage in a team-oriented feedback session – discussing what went well, what they could have done differently, and what they learned from the experience. As the challenge partners return and announce a winning team (if applicable), teams receive additional feedback from the partner organization.