2020 Summer Intern: Private Equity

Project Equity grows community wealth by retaining successful local businesses through employee ownership transitions

Do you want to see a world where the average employee has economic security and businesses help build resilient communities? So do we! Our mission is to foster economic resiliency with low-income communities by demonstrating and replicating strategies that increase employee ownership. Project Equity invests in awareness raising to get employee ownership “on the menu,” conducts business outreach and education, then provides direct support for businesses to transition to employee ownership. Project Equity is currently expanding into multiple regions around the country.

Help us tap incredible momentum

Project Equity’s early success and significant attention from media outlets such as Forbes, NPR and the Washington Post have propelled Project Equity forward as a national leader in the movement to harness employee ownership to maintain thriving local business communities, create quality jobs, and address income and wealth inequality.

We are always innovating, and in this time of incredible upheaval from COVID-19, the need for innovation is only heightened. As we head into a recession (and potentially a deep one), we are looking at whether and how to engage with and learn from private equity. We are concerned that we will lose significant local business ownership as a result of this crisis, and are looking at how we need to shift (or augment) our strategy to meet the moment. We want to research and design approaches that could meet the need of this moment for locally-owned businesses, while creating a new kind of pipeline for employee ownership transitions.

Your role

Bringing your experience in private equity, you will help Project Equity gain a clearer understanding of the ways that we could learn from, and potentially partner with, private equity to create more employee ownership. You will do this through research, modeling and design charrettes with internal and external stakeholders. You will also help educate the Project Equity team on key approaches of private equity that are helpful to our work (from identifying companies to due diligence to deal terms).

This role reports to Project Equity’s co-founder, and is expected to be about 10 weeks in length, with flexible start and end dates. Our team is distributed and mostly remote, with a small office in Oakland, CA. This is an unpaid internship. Many students are able to tap outside funding sources to cover their summary salary (e.g. through school programs that subsidize work with a nonprofit).

What you will do

- Identify and research proposed/recommended approaches that learn from and/or partner with private equity that create broad-based employee ownership.
- Develop models for top approaches that show deal flow numbers and transaction details.
Hold design charrettes with internal and external teams to create straw models for top approaches.

Identify and begin to build (or support building) relationships with potential partners.

Transfer private equity knowledge to internal Project Equity team members about key approaches of private equity that are helpful to our work (from identifying companies to due diligence to deal terms).

How you work

- You are goal-oriented and able to stay focused on and successfully achieve milestones in a short period of time.
- You are deeply interested in how best practices from private equity can drive positive change in communities and support employee ownership to scale.
- You have great people and communication skills.
- You are passionate about making a difference and supporting employee-owned businesses.
- You’re excited to work with a small, very agile, remote, fast-moving and sophisticated team.

Areas where you shine

- You bring private equity background, knowledge, experience and relationships.
- You’re aware of what you know, and what you don’t know and you seek answers and guidance from mentors.
- You aren’t shy about tracking down information, finding people to answer your questions, and reaching out to organizations, policymakers or others for their advice and input.
- You make things happen -- your project management is exceptional. You are courageous, ambitious, and humble.

Project Equity is a project of Multiplier, our umbrella organization and nonprofit “sponsor.” Multiplier provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, marital status, amnesty or status as a covered veteran in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws.

TO APPLY: Please submit a resume and cover letter to Project Equity at hiring@project-equity.org. In your cover letter, please explain what motivates you to work with Project Equity, and how your experience, skills and commitment will advance our work to create a more equitable economy.

Learn more at www.project-equity.org.