



**LEADERS IN EDUCATION ADVOCACY AND REFORM NETWORK**  
**VOLUNTEER CONSULTING PROGRAM**

**About Us**

LEARN is the hub for graduate students and young professionals committed to the education space.

The **LEARN Volunteer Consulting** program matches graduate and undergraduate students across the entire university with innovators in the education space looking for an extra hand. Volunteers are expected to contribute **about 10 hours of work over a 2 week period**. Projects outside this scope are possible but would be discussed on a case by case basis with the organization.

**Client Name**

**Spark Philadelphia**

Spark, a national nonprofit, offers a unique program that re-engages underserved middle school students in their education through hands-on apprenticeships and leadership curriculum.



Spark partners with schools and workplaces to match low-income 7th and 8th graders with mentors working in career fields aligned with the students' strengths and interests. Spark's parallel in-school curriculum reinforces the link between classrooms and careers while helping students build skills key to success in the 21st century.

Learn more about Spark at <http://www.sparkprogram.org/>

**Project Proposal(s)**

***Project Option #1: Literature Review of Middle Grades Education Reform***

As Spark continues to position themselves as an intervention working against the drop-out crisis and begins to advocate for greater value of experiential education and work exposure in the middle years, we need to grow our understanding of other middle grades education reform movements.

*(Choose one!)*

Spark is looking for a volunteer to help them understand current reform efforts, in particular, how larger movements are being leveraged or impacting the middle years, with a particular focus on experiential or workplace learning, and specific discussions and initiatives being pursued in the Philadelphia area.

***Project Option #2: Best Practice Review and Recommendations for Student and Family Motivation***

Spark's program model is contingent on engaging students who struggle to be in school and requires them to commit to spend 2 hours a week with their mentor in what is often an unfamiliar professional environment. Success therefore requires motivating middle school students, and engaging familial support, at levels usually not demonstrated by our participants. Spark wants to grow its understanding of what motivates students and families and, in turn, develop tools that Spark can employ programmatically to better engage, incentivize, support, and encourage consistent participation

**How to Apply & Questions?**

If interested, **please email E-mail [mshar87@gmail.com](mailto:mshar87@gmail.com) and [sharlene@learn-network.com](mailto:sharlene@learn-network.com) with a copy of your resume.**

*If you have questions, please email us and we'll answer them promptly!*