

This summer, the Yawkey Nonprofit Internship Program provided stipends for 14 BU students. The program pays a stipend of \$1,500 for an internship during the academic year and \$3,000 for a summer internship.

through the Chelsea and Lynn school districts, as well as individual schools and after-school programs in Boston and Lynn. They tend to be minority, immigrant families with first-generation American children, typically ninth graders just beginning to think about college.

“There’s a tremendous amount of literature which says the parents are the great keepers of motivation,” Hildreth says in his small FUEL office on Copley Square. “Yes, it happens that you get a favorite teacher in the seventh grade who changes your life. But it happens seldom compared to the motivation you get day in and day out from your parents.”

The relationship with FUEL is just one of the ways BU is trying “to make a real commitment to diversity,” Hildreth says, naming other programs like Upward Bound, College Advising Corps, and the Posse Foundation. “I see BU really trying to come up with innovative solutions.”

Hildreth started FUEL with his own money (and he continues to plug gaps when needed), but it has since brought in more than \$1 million from foundations, including the Boston Foundation, the Lloyd Balfour Foundation, and the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation.

FUEL students at BU are also eligible for the Century Challenge scholarships. Hildreth and his wife, Diane, contributed \$3 million to the program to establish the FUEL scholarship. Martinez, for example, has received \$10,000 a year through the challenge, as well as other financial aid, but still needed to take out loans to close the gap this year.

In her college admissions essay, Martinez wrote about the poverty she saw while visiting family in El Salvador and how it made her determined to use her education to help. At the College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences: Sargent College, she is working toward a career in global public health.

“I have all these opportunities, and I have to take advantage of them,” she says, looking at her mother, “because she couldn’t do that.” JB

Yawkey Foundations Gift Goes to Work

THIS PAST SUMMER, BENJAMIN St. Laurent had planned to spend his days at an unpaid internship at a local nonprofit and his nights working part-time to pay his rent. Instead, the political science major was able to take a paying job and skip the night job entirely, thanks to the newly launched Yawkey Nonprofit Internship Program, which pays students to work for nonprofits that have no budget for interns. St. Laurent (CAS’17) worked at the nonprofit Environment Massachusetts.

“I think I went into the internship knowing about problems facing the environment, but I quickly was taught some of the solutions and spent my summer promoting them,” says St. Laurent, whose work for the advocacy group has influenced him to consider a minor in earth science. “I wrote a report highlighting some Massachusetts companies that are embracing ways to cut carbon emissions. The internship really made use of my political science major, because I got to go to the State House to attend hearings and meet the legislators.”

This summer, the Yawkey Nonprofit Internship Program provided stipends for 14 BU sophomores and juniors, all of whom were required to line up an internship with a nonprofit organization before applying. The program, which pays a stipend of \$1,500 for an internship during the academic year and \$3,000 for a summer internship, is funded by the Yawkey Foundations, which pledged \$10 million in September 2014.



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The late, longtime Boston Red Sox owners Tom and Jean Yawkey had a relationship with BU dating to the early 1950s, when BU played all its football games at Fenway Park, and Terrier quarterback and baseball star Harry Agganis (SED’54) signed with the Red Sox. Today, the Yawkey Foundations support improvements to health care, human services, and education.

Students in the inaugural group of Yawkey interns worked at organizations that include the International Institute of Minnesota, which works to resettle refugees as well as provide them with educational programs, and the Founders Clinic, which serves underserved populations in the Oregon City, Ore., area.

“We’ve been hearing really positive feedback from students and employers,” says Lauren Soares (CAS’13), the Yawkey Internship program coordinator at BU’s Center for Career Development. “I’ve had students tell me that they are now considering jobs in the nonprofit field, which is exciting for us.” AL ■