Mass Advocates for Children Fellowship Mentor- Mentee Partnership







A little background

 MAC Youth Leaders Fellowship is a model for youth to develop specific job skills related to advocacy as well as the "soft skills" that are beneficial in any work setting such as working in a team, problem solving and communication skills.









A little background

The MAC fellowship also serves as a model to increase an organization's advocacy success, with the voice, perspective, and expertise of individuals with disabilities strengthening organizational capacity.







The role of law interns

The law student mentors meet weekly with the Fellow to discuss their experiences regarding their Fellowship at MAC and to review goals.



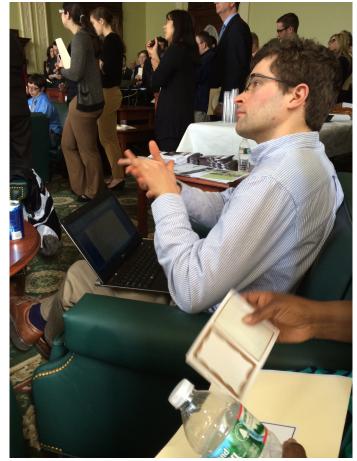






The role of law interns

 With the support of supervising staff and law student peer mentors, Fellows will be fully included in MAC's mission based on their own strengths and preferences.









And what are those activities that support MAC's mission.....?

MAC's three core advocacy and training activities:

 advocacy for individual students with disabilities

MASSACHUSETTS
ADVOCATES
for CHILDREN

 legislative and policy advocacy

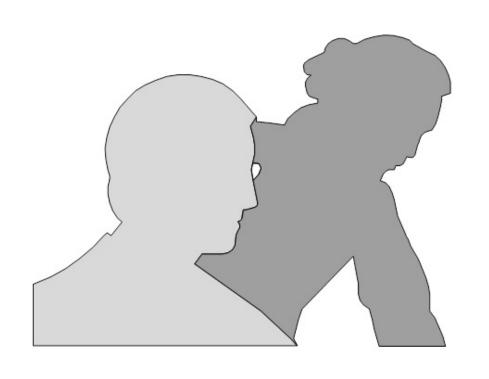
training for parents and professionals





Fellow training Phase 1: Observe and shadow

 The Fellows will initially observe MAC staff during client interviews, IEP meetings, mediations, hearings, trainings, policy initiatives and legislative advocacy at the State House.









Fellow training Phase 2: Take an active role in advocacy

With intensive supervision from MAC staff, as well as guidance provided by peer mentor law students, Fellows will increase participation in selected advocacy activities, providing important input and expertise for parents, educators, and younger youth with disabilities.

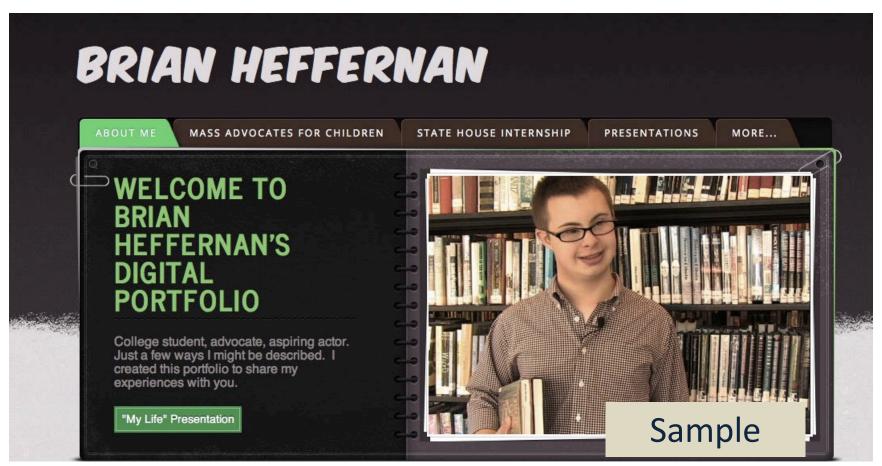








Ongoing assessment: Keep a daily journal/blog









Key feature of MAC fellowship: Mentor-Mentee partnership







Definition of mentoring

Mentoring is a relationship between two people with the goal of professional and personal development. The "mentor" is usually an experienced individual who shares knowledge, experience, and advice with a less experienced person, or "mentee."







Role of mentor

Mentors become trusted advisers and role models – people who have "been there" and "done that." They support and encourage their mentees by offering suggestions and knowledge, both general and specific. The goal is help mentees improve their skills and, hopefully, advance their careers.









Benefits to the mentor

Becoming a mentor can enrich your life on a personal and professional level by helping you do the following:

- Build your leadership skills
- Improve your communication skills
- Learn new perspectives









Benefits to the mentee

A trusted mentor can help you do the following:

- Gain valuable advice
- Improve your communication skills
- Learn new perspectives









Thank you

Feel free to contact Leslie Hughes (lhughes@massadvocates.org) for more information





