

Senior Bonner Proposal Assignment

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Bonner Leaders Program

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## Overview

The primary focus of my capstone project is to create a group that promotes capacity building for the Bonner program at Capital University through a team called the Bonner Recruitment Team (BRT). This includes recruiting first-year students for each academic year and current students to fill the positions that are missing in the cohorts that are already established. The purpose of this capstone will serve to bring awareness of the Bonner program to those on campus and those who plan to come to campus. It will also promote the longevity of the program for the years to come. The main goal is to assist the Bonner program with a solid foundation to continue to promote the program and gain new members. Through the program, students serve in their community and offer aid to those in need.

The main focus of the BRT is capacity building. While searching for more Bonners the BRT focuses on looking for students who are passionate about social justice and are eager to make a change in the community. The BRT's main goal is to add new members and old members to the program and promote longevity and consistency to the program. The focus of this capstone that impacts Capital University's community is by promoting community service and social justice. This impacts campus by drawing the attention to serving in a community and truly making an impact as well as striving for a genuine change in the way that targets social issues. This can be achieved by having a solid foundation in the Bonner program and increasing our numbers year by year.

## Community Partners

No community partners are being contacted for this project since it is mostly targeted for the Bonner program and Bonners. The BRT works mainly with the Bonner Director on this capstone by communicating the needs for the Bonner program. We discuss our plans for promoting the program to current students and interview them to fill the spots of the missing Bonner positions. We also discuss our plans for promoting and advertising the Bonner program for incoming first-year students. We will make plans for hosting interviews and reaching out to students who are interested in the program.

While the BRT does not work with any community partners, we do work with the Admission Office for recruiting incoming students. The Bonner program receives most of its Bonners from recruiting before they start their first year on campus. A collaboration with the Admission Office makes it easier to not only recruit incoming first-year students, but allows for more efficient and purpose driven communication to be provided with the intention of building the program.

## Literature Review

For this Capstone, the current members of the BRT have used experience in order to engage with students. Understanding what they would like to see and what would interest them about the program are among the things we take into consideration when making promotional materials and contacting students. For the Capstone itself, I will be looking into how being part of the Bonner Program promotes retention in our program and overall

on campus. I will also research for more ways to engage college students and high school students who are recruited to be part of our first-year cohort.

### Reflective Piece

The change that I've made was establishing the BRT. Being part of the first cohort of Bonners at Capital University I was able to grow with the program and see how it changes over the years. The main problem that I noticed was that we do not have enough public interest in the program to not only promote the Bonner program, but to retain our Bonners as well. I created this program so that the Bonner program at Capital University can reach the potential it was meant to reach when it originally began.

My time serving in the public has taught me that the work we do genuinely makes a difference to the community. The only reason we are able to help the community like we are now is because we have enough people in our program to be useful and assist in specific communities. That's why it is important to further build this program and focus on capacity building. This way we can continue to do the work we need to do to help support our neighboring communities.

To establish this team, I found it important to recruit students who have been in the Bonner program the longest. Their longevity allows them to see where improvements can be made to the program. I also took into consideration how active they were in the program. The recruitment team can best select people when they know what the work of the program consists of from experience. The Bonners who were selected also showed that they were

passionate about the program and believed that through capacity building the program can establish a firm foundation.

### Capstone Submission

This capstone will most likely be submitted in a form of presentation style. While having a board would be a good way to promote the work being done for the program it will not be enough to express the actual amount of detail that was put into this team. A presentation would better help the audience understand the purpose of this team and how it will not only benefit the Bonner program, but Capital University as well.

"Without a solid foundation you'll have trouble creating anything of value." This work serves to show the work being done by a team called the Bonner Recruitment Team (BRT) for the Bonner Leaderships Program to grow in capacity. The purpose of capacity building in the Bonner program is to fill each cohort to its full potential. This will allow for the program to serve its community in the way that this national program was originally intended for. This will also create for the full needs of the community to be met. This was accomplished by action research starting from the March 2021 and shows the steps that were taken to engage with students and the process for selecting those who will serve in the program. This work is important because not only is it helping the community, but it is providing students with an opportunity to be leaders reaching out a helping hand. Focusing on setting the foundation will also help to promote the longevity of the Bonner Leaders Program here at Capital University.