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Episode One - Princeton AlumniCorps: Who We Are

Welcome to We55, we're your hosts - I'm Soraia Francisco and I'm Brielle Blackshear. This is a Princeton AlumniCorps podcast from 12 Stockton. Princeton AlumniCorps is a 5013c non profit organization whose mission is to mobilize people, networks and organizations for the public good.

[intro music]

Soraia: So I'm super excited to do this, are you?

Brielle: I'm very excited to do this too [laughter]

Soraia: [laughter] I think it's going to be so exciting for us to really get to share all this info with Fellows, but I guess before we do that we should really talk about what we do and what our organization is about [laughs].

Brielle: Yeah, so Princeton AlumniCorps started off as Princeton Project 55.

Soraia: It was started by the class of '55.. They really wanted to promote civic engagement during their class reunion. They realized, "hey, you know what are we doing with the rest of our lives". So I think one of the things to distinguish before we go into our programs is that how many times have we been confused with the university, Brielle? [laughs] I think countless times, and it's a little tough because we don't receive funding from the university, so how do we as a nonprofit...

Brielle: Stand alone?

Soraia: Yes, stand alone and it's through donations! So just a little note for you all listening out there

Brielle: So, do you want to talk about our programs?

Soraia: Yes, yes I do - thank you very much [laughter] So we basically have four programs, our Bold Idea, Emerging Leaders, ARC Innovators and Project 55 which is our main program. Who is Bold Idea For?

Brielle: Yeah, so Bold Idea is a two year initiative around a specific social justice or public health issue and it's where we convene the people in our network around this issue about how we can make an impact.

Soraia: Yeah the last iteration was Immigration and forced migration.

Brielle: Yeah, which was led by our former Bold Idea Fellow, Sahand, who we miss dearly.

Soraia: We miss you!

Brielle: We actually held a symposium this past May around immigration and it was great and brilliant.

Soraia: It was phenomenal. Amazing work Sahand, we love you!

Soraia: So Emerging Leaders is an 8-month development for nonprofit professionals. It's a training that's led by two different facilitators, one based in DC and the other in New York City. It's really great for nonprofit individuals that want to accelerate their career and are getting thrust into leadership positions and are looking for more support.

Soraia: So with ARC Innovators, it's really just talking folx with certain expertise and skillsets and connecting them to nonprofits through pro bono projects. And we're currently in a relaunch of that program so you'll probably hear more about it later on in the podcast.

Soraia: So with Project 55, we're actually starting recruitment season in like a week, and I'm very excited. It was our main program and it really is about connecting Princeton graduates to nonprofits all across the country. It's more than us just placing Fellows in an organization and giving them a job, we're really building up the nonprofit sector.. Kind of in conjunction with our Emerging Leaders program. So just FYI Fellows, in the future you can totally check out the program for Emerging Leaders. But what we do is we provide them wrap-around support. So you have the local area committees in each of the cities and they match our Fellows with mentors, they provide professional development and enrichment events and social events. We also provide professional development from our office, and we'll do check-ins with our Fellows... and part of that professional development is relaunching how we disseminate this info, which is through this podcast that we're really excited about. But real quick, those cities are New York City, Boston, New Jersey, and Philadelphia, Chicago and Bay Area... and potentially many more if we grow so that's a little bit about us. Is there anything else that we want to share?

Brielle: If you want to learn more about what we do and who we are, you can head over to our website which is www.alumnicorps.org So that is w-w-w-dot-a-l-u-m as in mom- n as in nancy-i-c-o-r-p-s-dot-org. Also, you can follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter @PrincetonAlumnicorps.

Soraia: All right y'all, we'll talk to you later!

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