**Summer interns help uplift a nation and its youth**

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Having a great career and doing some good in the world isn’t an impossible feat. This summer, for some of our people and interns, making a difference in people’s lives was part of their job.

In July, 146 interns traveled to Belize City with PwC partners and staff to help build a better future for the people of Belize. Now in its sixth year, [*Project Belize*](http://www.pwc.com/us/en/about-us/corporate-responsibility/commitment-to-youth-education/project-belize.jhtml), a key part of the firm’s [*Earn Your Future*](http://www.pwc.com/us/en/about-us/corporate-responsibility/commitment-to-youth-education/index.jhtml) initiative, provides mentoring, scholarships and financial literacy education to parents, educators and students in Belize City. It’s a collaborative effort between PwC and [Peacework](http://peacework.org), a nonprofit organization that guides companies on ways to help alleviate poverty conditions in communities around the world.

**Can financial literacy *really* make a difference? You bet!**

There are many young people in countries such as Belize who have great ideas on how to build a better future for themselves and their community. But they don’t have the business knowledge and skills to bring their ideas to life. By educating them on basic financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills, they’ll gain the know-how to make their ideas real.

In cities around the world where many live in extreme poverty, such as Belize City, in which 50% of the population is younger than 20, having basic financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills can be life-changing. It not only inspires young people to think about ways they can earn a living, but gives them the confidence and knowledge to act on that potential to build a better future for themselves and their community.

Carol Babb, Belize Deputy Chief Education Officer, believes programs like Project Belize are essential to the children’s – and Belize’s – future. “I strongly believe financial literacy is a life skill – a skill every single one of us should learn,” she said. “No matter how brilliant the children are, if they cannot manage resources, they will be unhappy and unproductive. We now have a lot of students who are saving at home, and after graduating from high school, they’re thinking of opening their own businesses and creating their own jobs.”

**Creating a better tomorrow today**

The Project Belize team focused their efforts on three areas that made financial literacy and entrepreneurship fun, interesting and sustainable:

* youth camps for students
* mentoring for scholars
* workshops for teachers and principals.

Their hard work gives Belizean educators, parents and students the confidence and inspiration to unlock possibilities they might not have imagined otherwise. It also provides profound life experiences that the partners, staff and interns will not forget.

Jeff O’Brien, an intern from West Chester University, learned a powerful lesson from the children. “I have a newfound appreciation for all the opportunities I have in the United States. Many Belizeans will never have the opportunity to attend college or even high school. As I found myself worrying about trivial things, they are worrying about their next meal and daily survival.”

**Learn to standout. Anywhere.**

Project Belize is a unique opportunity for our partners, staff and interns to grow professionally and forge new friendships while having a hand in making the world a better place. The experience and camaraderie they shared in Belize prepares them to take on new career challenges at home.

Jeff said his fellow teachers taught him valuable lessons that he’ll put to good use in his career.

“I learned a lot on being there for each other and coming together to work toward a common goal. I now know what it takes to be a better teammate and communicator.”

**Sign me up**

To learn how to become a PwC intern or for more information visit [*Project Belize*](http://www.pwc.com/us/en/about-us/corporate-responsibility/commitment-to-youth-education/project-belize.jhtml).