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Sillerman MBA Internship Reflection Paper  
Placement: The Schott Foundation

As a Sillerman intern, I was placed at the Schott Foundation in Cambridge. The Schott Foundation's mission is, "to develop and strengthen a broad-based and representative movement to achieve fully resourced, quality pre K-12 public education." The foundation has a unique approach to achieving its mission through advocacy demonstrated in publishing of reports as well as holding conferences and supporting grassroots campaigns; as well as supporting strides in education reform through the awarding of grants. The Schott Foundation currently the "opportunity to learn" frame on education policy which is based on, "ensuring that resources are provided for all students to have an equitable opportunity to learn and produce high achievement outcomes."

During my time at the Schott Foundation, I worked closely with the operations department to review the current budget, track grants, and develop tools for a budget narrative for future use. The budget narrative is a useful tool for any organization to demonstrate where their funding comes from, how they allocate their resources, what determines this distribution, and the impact of these decisions. The budget narrative is helpful for internal use and review, as well as something to share with current and potential funders.

As an intern, I also spent time researching and compiling data on the connection between education policy and the prison system in the United States. As many reports and academic thought leaders have revealed, when students are lacking in the resources in school, they are often thrown off track. Moreover, the current prison system is also broken, and being

taken over by the private industry. I compiled this information to demonstrate the failure in our current system that doesn't provide enough education resources in low-income communities often sending the students on the path to jail. The research came together into an editorial piece that I co-authored with the President of Schott.

My experience as a Sillerman Intern at the Schott Foundation has allowed me to gain insight into the operations side of philanthropy. I was able to be involved in the every day tasks and decisions that a philanthropic institution faces. In addition, I was able to apply the skills that I learned from my MBA degree to develop of a budget narrative template, and the tracking of grants. Furthermore, this experience has demonstrated the significance of philanthropy in advocacy the support of policy campaigns at the local, state, and national level.