

I knew that working with the President and the CEO of a national non-profit organization was going to be intense, but nothing could have prepared me for my first couple of months. Starting from my first day, I have been deeply involved in high-level projects that have long-term implications for the organization. I spent my first few months focusing almost exclusively on the next 5 year strategic plan which will take the organization through 2015. During that time, I worked with senior leaders across the organization to develop appropriate analyses to support their vision and to set realistic growth targets.

The 2015 plan was approved at the end of November and with its conclusion, my position changed slightly. As the organization has been growing from under 500 staff members in 2006 to over 1200 today, there has been a need to establish a permanent strategic function. This Fall, Teach For America hired a Vice President of Strategy to develop an internal consulting team that focuses on cross-functional initiatives as well as organization-wide strategic planning. I now report through the VP of Strategy and am assisting her to build the foundations for this team both in vision and execution.

In this new role, I continue to work on high-level initiatives on a breath of topics. In addition to helping the program teams plan their organization strategies through 2015, I am investigating the viability of new revenue streams and conducting an external benchmarking study focused on operating costs.

My work with Teach For America has reaffirmed my belief that education reform is possible and that one day all children will have access to a quality education. The passion, determination, and leadership displayed by the staff, corps members, and corps alumni is inspiring.