

# SI&A Cabinet Report

## Administrator internship program hits record high

By Tom Chorneau

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Education Pioneers, an Oakland-based fellowship program for the training of school administrators, reports receiving a record number of applicants this spring among graduate students nationwide.

Nearly 2,500 applications were received this year – more than double what they received last year. Out of that total, the program enrolled 300 fellows, a big increase over the 225 participants from last year.

Fellows participate in an 11-week, summertime internship at one of 130 partner organizations across the country that include school districts, government agencies, charter schools, and other education organizations.

Recruits come from graduate students largely in business, law and education schools from some of the nation's top universities, including Harvard, New York University, Columbia, Duke, Georgetown, and Stanford.

Education Pioneers reports that almost 70 percent of the students enrolled in the 2010 class have between three to six years of career and professional experience including some from such firms as Google, McKinsey & Company, Harlem Children's Zone, Goldman Sachs, and Boeing.

Frances McLaughlin, the organization's chief operating officer, said that while most of their alums are quickly snatched up by state education departments and charter organizations – there seems to be less opportunity within local educational agencies.

"One of the things we are hearing from our alums is that it is not proving as easy for them to identify opportunities as the district level," she said.

"The question we have been asking is how can we best be working with senior district administrators to make them more aware of these leaders that are ready to work," she said.

One fellow working this summer at San Francisco Unified is David Phillips, 30, a business graduate student at Duke University. Attracted to the profession after a stint teaching English-learners, Phillips said his ambition is to become a school administrator. In exactly what capacity, however, he is still trying to sort out.

"That's part of what Education Pioneers does," he said. "They try to expose all of us to different careers in education. That's part of my journey now, this summer is to figure out exactly where I fit."