This past semester, I had the privilege of serving as an FYE Mentor for the BCLC. Not only did I learn about the inner workings of the BCLC and the amazing opportunities that we all receive, I learned a lot about myself and what it is like to be a true leader. During the fall semester, I assisted in teaching the UNIV 1810 class in which all of the freshmen are enrolled. Honestly, it was quite overwhelming at first. Not knowing anything about teaching and having minimal presentation skills, I was nervous going into the first week of school, knowing that I was going to have 20 freshmen looking up to me as their mentor. But as time went on, my nerves were eased because my students were all amazing people who were passionate about their careers, inside and outside of the BCLC.

There are many highlights of the past semester as a mentor. However, the best part was watching my students grow from the first day I met them at the “BCLC Bash,” until the last day of classes in December. On the first day of class, I greeted almost all of my students and they appeared to be nervous college freshmen in an unfamiliar environment. As time passed, they became more comfortable, found their friend groups, clubs and organizations. Some of them completed Bloomberg, they all created LinkedIns and resumes, jump-starting their careers. By the last class, all of the students seemed comfortable and ready to go into the next semester. Watching them grow into true BCLC freshmen was a great experience.
I, too, grew as a person from this experience. I learned how to be patient, responsible, and how to be a leader of fellow students. It can be challenging to lead a group of students who are basically the same age as you, because you only have one year of experience on them. I learned how to grade papers and how to create a lesson plan, which is something I never thought that I would learn. I improved my public speaking skills and my confidence level. Mentoring is an empowering experience, and I highly recommend that you apply. It was one of the best decisions that I've made, and I feel so lucky I have another semester of mentoring ahead.

— Chloe McCullough