



“These are students whose parents might not have the networks to facilitate an internship connection,” Calegari said.

Enterprise for Youth turns 50 this year and is celebrating the 90th birthday of founder Gladys Thacher. Thacher started the organization by using paid work opportunities to engage young people, seeing work as a tool for healing and empowerment as well. “We still feel that now, but we see PropelNext as a great partner to reinvigorate our program and chart a vision for the next 50 years,” Calegari said.

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With the help of PropelNext, Enterprise for Youth is becoming more of a learning organization, with the aim of deepening and expanding its programs. With a greater level of sophistication in collecting and evaluating data, Enterprise for Youth has been able to better understand their target population and the appropriate amount of programming for the greatest impact.

Specifically, Enterprise for Youth is working with PropelNext to improve and scale their internship program. “We know that three internships changes a student’s job trajectory post-bachelor’s degree,” Calegari explained. “What we’re grappling with and excited about is understanding the right population and amount of programming for impact.”

According to Calegari, there are 18,000 high school youth in San Francisco and the economy—particularly in the health and tech sectors— is continuing to grow. Enterprise for Youth is looking to deepen and expand its internship program so that San Francisco youth are prepared to meet that need. As Calegari said, “We believe in the power of work-based learning so much that we not only want to expand the employment opportunities to more fields and more youth, but we also want to increase the number of internships a youth experiences.”

PropelNext is a program of the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation that helps promising nonprofits convert their passion for serving disadvantaged youth into data-driven insights and practices that increase their impact on young people’s lives. This is a look into Enterprise for Youth, a PropelNext grantee in their Northern California 2021 cohort, and the organization’s experience thus far in the program. The William & Flora Hewlett Foundation is the co-investor for Enterprise for Youth.