ACE’s Mission: To aid and support African Youth in achieving their educational, cultural and social goals throughout their respective acculturation journeys.

History: ACE began as a one-on-one tutoring program for Liberian students and was originally initiated by University of Massachusetts Medical School students. ACE now offers various academic and non-academic programs, allowing educational, social and creative opportunities for its students. ACE serves students from Liberia, Somalia, Ghana, Congo, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, Libya, as well as students of other ethnicities. They can proudly say that 49 of their students have graduated high school since their start in 2008.

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| **After School Program:**  
- Monday-Thursday 3-6pm  
- 50 students enrolled with an average of 33 students per session  
- One-on-one tutoring  
- Structured opportunities, such as engineering workshops, leadership workshops and time for social interaction  | **Fairlawn Grant:**  
- The Fairlawn Foundation is endowed by funds from the Greater Worcester Community Education and grants funds with the aim to better health care in Worcester  
- If funds are granted to ACE, embedded mental health care professionals will be present in the After School Program and other ACE programs  
- By having an embedded professional present in ACE programs, ACE hopes to decrease the stigma surrounding mental health and enable their students to receive the care that they may not otherwise be receiving  | During my time at ACE, I was able to take on various roles. I was able to foster my relationships with students that had begun during my time as an ACE volunteer through my role as an After School Program tutor. I was also able to build my cultural competency skills and skills for working with youth by designing and facilitating leadership workshops. In addition, I was able to learn more about non-profit organizations by working with Human Resources to put together a staff for their Summer Programs. I learned about ACE’s funding by being introduced to the Fairlawn Grant and putting together data, performing analysis and contributing to a narrative for the CDBG grant. Through my time at ACE, I have learned much more about what it means to be an advocate, a member of a working team, a mentor of sorts and a friend. I will take all that I have learned with me. |

| Leadership Program:  
- Takes place once per week during after school hours each for middle school and high school students, respectively  
- Overarching goals are to build communication skills, teamwork skills and make a positive impact within the community  
- This quarter’s goals were based on students’ pre-test results and included a focus on: eye contact, productive expression of one’s opinions, and speaking in front of groups  
- Workshop activities that I facilitated included: Communication Bingo, Role playing to demonstrate effective communication techniques, and open discussions  | **Community Development Block Grant:**  
- The Community Development Block Program supplies grants to programs for a variety of community needs  
- If fund were granted to ACE, such funds could help significantly with their expenses  | **Acknowledgements:**  
I would like to thank Lila Milukas, Kim Edwards, Amy Connery and Kelsey Spratt for allowing me an enriching experience at ACE this summer. I would also like to thank ACE’s students and the rest of the ACE family for allowing me to be a part of it. I would like to thank Drs. Suzanne Cashman and Heather-Lyn Hailey for their guidance and leading an enlightening and stimulating program for students. |

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