

**Venture Philanthropy Cover Letter**

Acumen Fund  
74 Trinity Place  
New York, NY 10006  
Summer Internship Program

April 23, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

I am currently a student at Columbia Business School and am writing in regards to a possible summer internship with the Acumen Fund. I learned of the opportunity through an internship listing with Career Services at Columbia.

After having worked in education for four and a half years, I came to business school hoping to realize true partnerships between the public and private sector. I was aware of new social entrepreneurs in education and elsewhere, and I witnessed the growing prominence of venture philanthropy and the emerging dialogue around social investing. I hoped that business school could be a forum to not only study but also advance these ideas.

The Acumen Fund would be an ideal internship to further explore my interest in venture philanthropy and to apply my previous work experience and current classroom learning. For instance, as the Project Director for Accountability and Assessment with The Center for Collaborative Education (CCE), I was responsible for creating and implementing metrics which could capture all of the facets of whole-school success, i.e. parent satisfaction, high attendance rates or longitudinal data confirming above average college acceptance and retention rates. This involved identifying and quantifying various data to form appropriate benchmarks and goals for member schools. Given the project goal of measuring the impact of successful schools on greater student outcomes, my experiences with CCE seem especially relevant to Acumen Fund's donor tracking system and any measurement of the impact of funds invested.

In addition to my work on more holistic metrics in public schools, I have also worked and studied in Russia and Peru and have visited countries throughout Eastern Europe, Latin and South America and Asia. Through these experiences and through personal acquaintances, I have become familiar with successful programs in microfinance and economic development in various developing countries. I could also apply my research and communication skills along with this knowledge of successful programs to help structure Acumen Fund's initial portfolios.

I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to further discuss a possible internship with Acumen Fund. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at [kat54@columbia.edu](mailto:kat54@columbia.edu) or by phone at 917-734-4608.

Sincerely,

Keith Timko  
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Columbia Business School