FDRG Progress Report:
Lionheart Investments Fund: A Finance Experiential Learning Program

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Summary

The goal and objective of this project is to create a student managed capital investment fund as a co-curricular program. This project will give students exposure and opportunities for hands-on engagement by managing assets and following capital markets. This will allow the BES Investment Club members, BES students and Finance Majors to connect in-class theory with real world applications.

The secondary goal is for Lionheart Investments to become financially self-sustaining. Capital gains will be reinvested into the fund and used to cover operational costs. Additionally, this student managed capital investment fund, will be the first at any HBCU.

Milestone(s)

This program is a three phase project. The first phase administratively sets up the fund with the appropriate governmental and regulatory agencies. The second phase will be a capital campaign to secure initial finances for the fund. The third phase will be student orientation via the boot camp. 40% of the first phase is complete. The second and third phases of the project are anticipated to begin simultaneously by Summer 2025.

Project Activities

Lionheart Investment bylaws are now complete. Additionally, a tax plan to comply with regulatory mandates is in development. Other report templates that are in development include the Annual Report, Capital Markets' Sector Review, Coverage Reports, Company Updates, Performance Reports, Valuation Reports and Economic Themes Reports.

The professional advisory board guidelines are also complete and under review to meet regulatory compliance guidelines.

Students will go through an orientation, which is an investment boot camp. The boot camp is comprised of the Resources Workshop (software training); and Securities Training Workshop. The Securities Training Workshop covers the materials necessary to pass the securities certification tests and complete the tasks to add value to the fund. The workshop also covers a financial modeling component.

Results and Impact

Students will gain financial knowledge and job market experiences. Additionally, students will develop workforce technical and soft skills as it relates to investment research, networking, critical thinking, and capital management. Should they choose to sit for the appropriate SIE and Series certifications exams, they will be more equipped to be successful.

Students will improve their oral communication skills by presenting their research in pitch meetings to persuade the team to invest in securities they believe will add value to the fund. Students will also improve their analytical and written communication skills by completing valuation research and writing annual reports disseminated to the appropriate regulatory agencies, the public and prospective donors.

Lessons Learned

The biggest lesson learned is managing personal expectations for time to get through the various activities to ensure that this project is successful.

Future Plans, Sustainability

Future plans are to complete the first phase of the project by May 2025 and transition into phases two and three by Summer 2025. This will allow for a Fall 2025 roll out.

The fund's sustainability is contingent on annual capital campaign events that expose the students to the business community and the alumni networks.