Non-Profit Executives - Questions

1. Could you begin by stating your name, your role, and providing a general introduction to your organization's work?

2. What type of community do you primarily serve local, regional, national? What are some of your organization's major programs?

3. What type of education or training (both formal and informal) did you undergo on your way to becoming an executive?

4. What advice do you have for students who might be interested in your specific field?

5. What do you think are one or two things that students might find surprising about being an executive, things that even surprised you?

6. Could you share with students one particular project in your organization that you are particularly proud of? Why is this project important to the focus of your organization's work?

7. What are the specific qualities and skills that you look for when hiring an employee (whether they are entry level or a managerial)? What advice would you have for students in relationship to focusing on and developing these skills?

8. What are some things you have learned about successfully managing or working with various kinds of people, customers, clients, and/or partnerships? What message do you have for students in relationship to working with people?

9. What are some specific skills that you use everyday that you feel all students should know are essential to succeeding in the workforce? Could you provide a single specific example of how you used such skills in working on a recent project or with a specific customer?

10. Could you share a particular business success that might not seem like a "big deal" to the outside observer but is very important to the work of your organization?

11. Did you always envision that you would be an executive? Could you talk about one or two specific events that helped you make this decision?

12. When you look back upon when you were trying to make a career decision, do you have any parting words of advice for students that you wish someone in your position had told you?