Divya Belavadi, T ’15
Castanea Foundation, Inc./Vermont Creamery
Randolph, Vermont

“My internship gave me a stronger understanding of who I am as a leader and how I can leverage my leadership style to add value to an organization.”

Castanea Foundation conserves and protects agriculturally productive and environmentally significant land and water resources in select areas of Vermont and New York. It develops and supports conservation projects that foster economically viable, environmentally sustainable agricultural practices.

Ayers Brook Goat Dairy is a public-private partnership between the Castanea Foundation and the Vermont Creamery, a gourmet butter and cheese company. While at Ayers Brook, Divya:

- learned and analyzed all aspects of goat dairy operations in order to project operating cost evolution and identify the key drivers to profitability
- calculated the number of milking does and necessary output in order for the farm to break even and move towards sustainable profitability
- implemented processes to help farm managers better track animal and equipment expenses, feed inventory, and standard costs for haymaking activities
- used spreadsheet best practices learned in Decision Sciences, KPI’s learned in Operations, and costing concepts learned in Managerial Accounting