

"Unite for Success" Student Internship Program FAQs

1. Where did the "Unite for Success" Student Internship Program idea come from?

The idea for the "Unite for Success" Student Internship Program began in an attempt to help our Chamber member businesses find the right employees. With a growing need for skilled labor and workplace experience in the Central Minnesota area, the St. Cloud Area Chamber, in partnership with St. Cloud Area School District 742, wanted to provide workforce development opportunities to local high school students and local businesses.

The second goal of the Student Internship Program is to positively impact the graduation rate of high school students in local school districts.

2. Who are the students eligible for this program?

Students eligible for this program are those defined as historically underserved by TRIO requirements:

- Are counted under section 1124(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Title I) - have a barrier (emotional, mental, or physical) to learning;
- Are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch;
- Are a member of groups traditionally under-represented in higher education including: Black, Hispanic, American Indian, and Southeast Asian racial/ethnic minorities; and
- Students who will be the first generation to attend college.

3. When will the internships take place?

Internships will begin in June and run through August (or longer as needed.)

4. What if our business or organization requires a background check or a drug test?

If your business or organization requires a background check or a drug test, make sure to include that in your internship job description. Also, if you expect the student to pay the costs to cover the background checks and/or drug tests, please include that information as well.

One suggestion is to have the student pay for any drug tests and/or background checks up front. If the student passes the tests, your business or organization can reimburse the student.

5. Does our business or organization have to pay the interns?

No. The Chamber provides each intern with a stipend of \$550 upon successful completion of the internship.

6. What types of tasks can an intern do?

Some examples of internship tasks include: administrative tasks, marketing tasks, social media, product development, conference planning, budgeting, website development/maintenance, research, etc. Please see the handout titled "Ideas for Internship Tasks" for more ideas.

7. What can't an intern do?

Your intern cannot replace an employee. Interns cannot work before 6:30 a.m. or after 11:30 p.m. Interns cannot take deliveries and cannot participate in hazardous occupations.

8. If my business or organization wants to get involved, what steps should I take?

If you would like to host an intern, please contact Kelti Lorence,
klorence@StCloudAreaChamber.com or call her at (320) 656-3830.

If you decide to host an intern for the summer, a position description must be typed up and turned in to the Chamber by Friday, March 29, 2019. Student interviews will begin May 1st.

9. If I have any questions I can contact:

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