



February 13, 2023

Senator Bobby Joe Champion, Chair
Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Re: Support for the SciTech Internship Program (SF 1284)

Chair Champion and members of the Jobs and Economic Development Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Technology Association (MnTech) to voice our support for the SciTech Internship Program funded through SF 1284. MnTech is a coalition of nearly 170 member companies united in building a stronger tech ecosystem and innovation economy in Minnesota. Our member companies work the spectrum of technology, from IT, advanced manufacturing, life sciences, fintech, agtech, cleantech, and edutech, and range from long-established corporations to small and growing startups.

This wide variety of employers of tech jobs in Minnesota provide some of the highest-paying career tracks in the state, but currently lack a strong and diverse talent pipeline to fill the jobs of today and the future. MnTech members know that diverse teams produce stronger outcomes, yet the Minnesota tech workforce does not reflect diversity of our community. Minnesota is in the bottom half of the country for representative diversity in tech, with women, Black or African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native American/Indigenous (BIPOC) populations all underrepresented as compared to their respective representation in the labor force. In Minnesota, 89% of all tech job postings require a four-year degree, yet less than 22% of BIPOC talent in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area hold a bachelor's degree.

The SciTech internship program is directly helping to create a more diverse tech workforce, as one third of interns hired in 2022 were BIPOC, 48% of hires were students underrepresented in STEM fields, and 31% were from Greater Minnesota. The state funding has already demonstrated a strong return on investment, as every dollar the state provides in wage reimbursements, private companies contribute \$2.83 in wages paid. With a \$1,400,000.00 investment annually over the coming 2 years, SciTech will be able to place 325 interns annually and provide a wage reimbursement to employers of up to \$3,000 per intern, increasing the wages they can offer or the amount of time they can retain an intern. In the 10 years that the SciTech program has been in existence, it's



served more than 2,400 students, 79% of which have stayed in Minnesota at least two years after graduating. Considering Minnesota's forecasted population declines, especially in the 18 - 24-year-old demographic, programs like SciTech are crucial for keeping homegrown talent here.

Investments in SciTech are also crucial because without talent pipeline programs with demonstrated success like this, Minnesota companies will not be able to remain nationally competitive. As a direct example of the problem we're currently facing, in 2022 only 4,529 students graduated in Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services postsecondary programs, as compared to 32,801 annual openings for positions requiring those credentials. This translates to a loss of opportunity for Minnesota residents, a loss of tax revenue for the state, and a loss of productivity for Minnesota companies.

Thank you for your consideration of these important investments.

Katie McClelland

Katie McClelland
Director of Public Policy & Research
Minnesota Technology Association



Maria Burns Ortiz
7 Generation Games
2124 Dupont Ave S, Ste G4
Minneapolis, MN 55405

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Jan. 16, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. To date, my company has hired four interns in through SciTech. After the internship, we hired the first of those interns – who was still in school – as a part-time staff role. Later, we hired two other former interns on full-time at the conclusion of their spring internship.

In fact, SciTech and the ease through which the program enables us to find entry-level tech talent is directly responsible for our decision to make these hires in Minnesota, even as our company is going increasingly remote and we could be hiring technical staff from anywhere. When it comes to 7 Generation Games, SciTech is directly creating jobs in the state of Minnesota.

When we relocated our HQ to the Twin Cities three years ago, I asked tech colleagues where in Minnesota they found job candidates. SciTech was highly referred. As someone who has hired interns in multiple states, what has been especially attractive about SciTech is that it has a level of vetting built-in for me as an employer and serves as a one-stop shop for posting internships vs. needing apply across multiple university job boards. Moreover, when we post on SciTech, we get replies.

In business, we talk about ROI. In our case, this small stipend that SciTech provides has generated exponential ROI for the state through tax revenue as well as local economic spending by creating in-state jobs and hiring local talent.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would strongly recommend its continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Burns Ortiz', written in a cursive style.

Maria Burns Ortiz
CEO and Co-Founder
7 Generation Games

Dionne Gumbs
GenEQTY INC.
5695 Archer Lane N
Minneapolis, MN 55446

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 30, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

We are writing to express our full support for the SciTech Internship Program and to request additional funding to help continue operating this essential program. The SciTech Internship Program provides an invaluable opportunity for innovative small companies like ours to access a unique pool of talented students while also supporting local communities.

The program has allowed us to hire exceptional candidates such as Wenlei Yu, who was able to gain experience in an agile development setting while working directly with our CEO. This offers an invaluable learning experience that prepares these young professionals for their future careers in STEM fields. In addition, the matching funds provided by the program have enabled us to offer competitive pay rates, making it more accessible for local students who would otherwise struggle to find meaningful employment opportunities during their studies.

Furthermore, we believe that the SciTech Internship Program serves as a valuable resource for both our company and the larger entrepreneurial ecosystem in the state of Minnesota. Our interns bring fresh ideas and cutting-edge knowledge into our business, helping us stay ahead of the curve in terms of technological innovation.

We are confident that continued support of the SciTech Internship Program brings substantial benefits. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Dionne Gumbs
CEO & Founder
GenEQTY, INC.

Sandra Eayrs
Nuwellis, Inc.
12988 Valley View Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 26, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. Our small medical device company has hired ten students for internships since 2018 through SciTech. Hiring students from the SciTech Internship Program has made a positive impact in our engineering and quality departments. In 2022, we converted one of our 2021 SciTech interns to a full-time engineering position. And, just recently, we offered two students currently enrolled in the SciTech Internship Program, internships for this upcoming summer.

The SciTech Internship Program provides eager college students a valuable opportunity to gain real-life, hands-on engineering work. The students whom we have hired for our internships through the program have done an outstanding job. They positively made an impact on process improvements and were helpful with several projects and important tasks in their departments and across multiple teams.

As a small company we truly appreciate the partnership we have with the SciTech Internship Program. The matching funds from SciTech's program has allowed our small company to pay these interns competitively. The SciTech job board has been instrumental in giving us and other participating companies access to a variety of local STEM students who want to find a successful, meaningful internship opportunity. The job board also provides their participating students with visibility to job opportunities at smaller, growing Minnesota companies.

I thank you for your past support of the SciTech Internship Program and ask that you consider supporting this great program going forward.

Kind Regards,



Sandra Eayrs
Chief Human Resources Officer
Nuwellis, Inc.

Elizabeth Brown
625 Marshall Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 26, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

Hello! My name is Elizabeth Brown, and I am writing in support of the Minnesota Technology Association's SciTech Internship Program. This program has played a critical role in my academic and professional career.

I just graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Throughout my education, I accepted two internships through SciTech. In 2021, I interned at a medical device startup company called Aria CV in Minneapolis, MN. Aria CV is developing a unique implantable device that treats people with pulmonary hypertension. They brought me on to help develop test systems for their device. My experience at Aria CV validated my desire to be a mechanical engineer and inspired me to pursue a career in medical devices.

In 2022, I was approached by a hiring manager at Respiratory Sciences Inc. that found my resume on SciTech. They asked if they could interview me for a medical device related mechanical engineering position, which I ended up accepting. Respiratory Sciences Inc. is a startup company in Minneapolis, MN that is developing a respiratory diagnostic device for clinical and therapeutic use. At Respiratory Sciences Inc. I have had the privilege of working with many industry professionals and skilled engineers on an incredible project that will help people with lung conditions. I just accepted a full time position with Respiratory Sciences Inc. after interning with them for a year!

My internship experiences would not have been possible without the MnTech's SciTech Program. Both Aria CV and Respiratory Sciences Inc. are small companies, and they would not have had the funding to employ interns without SciTech. SciTech also helps keep tech talent in Minnesota.

I strongly support the SciTech Internship Program. I hope other students who desire to work in STEM industries in Minnesota have the same experiences I had through the SciTech.

Thank you for your support,

Elizabeth Brown

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01/06/2022

To: Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Letter of Support for SciTech

Dear Senators,

Over the years we have hosted at least seven SciTech interns and found the program to be very beneficial. The first two we hired after the completion of the internship. Same with this last one. Damon. Damon did amazing work for us learning about agrivoltaic installations as an economic and agricultural benefit and then planned and facilitated the installation of the system on our corporate campus. The internships that SciTech offers moves our development forward and those internships would not have happened without the help from SciTech and people like Becky Siekmeier.

I support the SciTech program and I strongly believe it is a worthy investment by the people of Minnesota. Our economy only moves forward because of the hard work of very skilled workers. Thinking about all the innovations and business development that future SciTech interns will have across our great state gives me a great feeling. I hope you all feel the same way!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Date: January 20, 2023

RE: Letter of Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in support of the SciTech Internship Program. As director of STEM Programs and Principal Investigator for a \$5 Million National Science Foundation grant providing scholarships to STEM students at Augsburg and three metro area community colleges (Century College, Minneapolis College and Normandale Community College), I know the importance of research and internships. At Augsburg, students must complete the Augsburg Experience, which links classroom learning with opportunities such as internships. “The Augsburg Experience provides students with opportunities for:

- Direct involvement with people and organizations external to the University
- First-hand discovery, integration, and application of knowledge
- Self-awareness through reflective and critical thinking
- Exploration of vocation—of what one is called to do in the world
- High-impact learning that helps students make the transition from college to career”

<https://www.augsburg.edu/academics/augsburg-experience/>

Thanks to SciTech, Augsburg’s STEM students are able to look for internships that will help them be successful when they join the job market as professionals. In the words of one student who, through SciTech, interned at ResiDex:

“This internship has taught me a lot about the software development and production cycle. I have learned far more through this internship about software development, and life in the workplace, than in my entire four years in college.”

SciTech program’s matching funds allows employers to continue to offer the internships that our students need to be competitive as they head out into the workplace. Please continue to support SciTech.

Kind regards,

Rebekah Dupont, PhD
STEM Programs, Director
dupont@augsborg.edu
Augsburg University
2211 Riverside Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Sadeepa Bandara
819 5th Ave S, Apt 301
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 27, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing this letter to support the Minnesota Technology Association's SciTech Internship Program. The program has been extremely rewarding both professionally and academically for me.

I am a recent graduate student in Computer Science at the St. Cloud State University. In 2021, I applied for an internship at MEI Research in Edina, MN through the MnTech's SciTech program. MEI Research makes software tools for university researchers. I was able to learn a lot through this internship and it has helped me to prepare for a career in computer science.

In 2022, I was able to find another internship opportunity at Exosite thanks to SciTech. Exosite is an IOT company located in Minneapolis, MN. I was able to work as software developer for them. Through this internship I was able learn new technologies and work with a great team of developers. In my previous position at Exosite, I was responsible for implementing new front and back-end features to a web application built using React.js and Node.js, identifying and fixing bugs, directing programming, and testing newly implemented features with the QA team. This experience gave me exposure to the entire software development life cycle.

These internship experiences would not have been possible without the MnTech's SciTech Program. I applied to lots of internship positions through other job sites and I couldn't get any replies but luckily, I found the SciTech program. Because of the SciTech program I was able to directly talk to the hiring manager of the company and demonstrate my skillset. I strongly support the SciTech Internship Program. I hope other students who desire to work in STEM industries in Minnesota have the same experiences I had through the SciTech.

Thank you for your support,

Sadeepa Bandara

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Date: January 27, 2023

RE: Letter of Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

As the Interim Statewide Director of the Louis Stokes North Star STEM Alliance (LS-NSSA), I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program.

LS-NSSA is funded by the National Science Foundation and the 3M Foundation and is a partnership of fourteen Minnesota colleges and universities and three community organizations. SciTech is one of our important community organization partners.

Our primary goal is successfully increasing the number of traditionally underrepresented students receiving bachelor's degrees in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) across our institutions. We also support and engage our students through achievement, research, and social initiatives, and developing programs to bridge campus, community, and industry pathways.

SciTech has been a committed partner in working with the LS-NSSA to help our STEM students prepare for and secure internships in Minnesota industries such as medical devices, engineering, technology and manufacturing.

Since 2012, SciTech has attended LS-NSSA sponsored event 'Jumpstart Your STEM Job Search' to talk with students about internship opportunities available in small Minnesota companies. In addition, SciTech played a key role in organizing this an annual half-day workshop where our students to learn about the job search process and connect with employers.

More recently, SciTech has partnered with LS-NSSA to produce the QuikSkills Job Search workshop series. This four-part series has been instrumental in providing our students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in securing jobs and internships. Topics have ranged from understanding networking to resumes and interviewing skills. The SciTech team did a fantastic job converting the in-person workshops to virtual events when the pandemic began. This allowed us at LS-NSSA to offer high-quality professional development workshops to students across our whole alliance when other in-person programming efforts had to be ceased.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Office for Equity and Diversity

North Star STEM Alliance

162 Appleby Hall

128 Pleasant Street S.E.

Minneapolis, MN 55455

Office: 612-626-0043

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SciTech has served 39 LS-NSSA students synchronously, with many more in the planned workshops to come. SciTech has been a pivotal internship resource, and now as a result of their continual ingenuity, our LS-NSSA scholars will also have asynchronous access to SciTech recorded workshops on the SciTech website as well.

I have been impressed with SciTech's commitment to increasing the number of our LS-NSSA students enrolled in and securing internships through the SciTech program. Not only is SciTech a gem for our state, it is also critical in helping students connect to the hands-on experience they need to initiate their STEM field career upon graduation. This program has positively impacted our numerous students, Minnesota colleges and universities, the workforce and seventeen members of the LSNSSA.

I appreciate the State of Minnesota's past and current support of the SciTech program. I recommend its continued support.

Respectfully,

Simone Gbolo
Interim Statewide Director
Louis Stokes North Star STEM Alliance

Grant Williamson
ABV Technology
1435 Energy Park Drive
St. Paul, MN 55108

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 27, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. I've hired seven students over the last three years through SciTech and each one of them has been able to make significant contributions to our new product development process, while learning critical skills that are directly transferable to their first jobs out of school.

These students have run experiments, written code and analyzed data in the course of us developing and now releasing a product that measures alcohol by volume of beverages. This product is critical to our growth as a company and without these interns we would not have been able to release it nearly as quickly. Each of these students came into the internship with some background in chemical engineering or programming, but had little direct industry experience. Our internships have supported them in gaining experience in an industrial setting, both helping them to bolster their skillset and understand how to succeed in their first jobs.

Both of the two students who have graduated are now employed in STEM jobs in Minnesota including one, Isabella Wenthe, who we were able to hire directly as a product engineer straight out of school. Given our small team, we would not have been able to hire a student directly out of school without having seen them succeed in an internship first. Isabella is an integral member of our product development team and now leads the day-to-day engineering for the alcohol by volume product line.

SciTech's matching funds allowed us to pay our interns competitively, and its recruiting website was critical in finding and recruiting high quality candidates as a smaller company. We would not have been able to find these candidates without Scitech and this in turn would have reduced our productivity and competitiveness. Our ability to employ Scitech Interns has directly led to growth for our company. I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would very strongly recommend its continued support.

Sincerely,

Grant Williamson
Research and Development Manager
ABV Technology

MN SENATE

Adam Karvonen
3809 Colbert Ave NW
Buffalo, MN 55313

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 18, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Technology Association's SciTech Internship Program. The program has been extremely rewarding both professionally and academically for me.

I am now a full time software research engineer, working at Galois in Minneapolis. Breaking in to the tech industry, even with a computer science degree, can be tough. There is a lot of competition for entry level jobs and internships, because it often doesn't make business sense for companies to provide 3 months of training for entry level employees. Computer science is complex, and it can often take many months of training before employees begin producing value. Because of this, competition can be high for scarce internships, with many people applying to dozens or hundreds of jobs. I personally applied for around 50 internships.

During my time as a Galois intern, I wrote code and implemented features on company projects, and received valuable real world computer science experience. Getting this real world experience is the biggest hurdle to cross when becoming a software developer. After my time as an intern, I was hired as a full time employee at Galois in Minneapolis.

MN SciTech can provide a valuable boost to get entry level STEM employees over the initial hurdles and into the workforce for a very low initial investment, in addition to supporting local STEM industries. Additionally, it only takes a fraction of these internships to translate into full time jobs to repay the investment through the additional tax dollars.

I strongly support the SciTech Internship Program. I hope other students who desire to work in STEM industries in Minnesota have the same experiences I had through the SciTech.

Thank you for your support,

Adam Karvonen

MN SENATE

Sam Somrock
HED Cycling Products
1735 Terrace Dr.,
Roseville, MN 55113

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 27, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing to convey my extreme gratitude and support for the SciTech Internship Program. As a former SciTech intern at the company I now work for and for another in northern Minnesota, I am happy to confirm the positive impact this program can have on both businesses and individuals.

This past summer, our intern Allison helped with a great many projects as a Mechanical Engineering Intern. Her primary project was to find a suitable thermal insulation material that was able to withstand a great amount of crushing force. She learned how to quickly develop tests, efficiently communicate with vendors, and utilize samples to tabulate the performance of each type of material. Allison's final presentation left us with all the contacts, material properties, and calculations necessary to implement a new insulation system in our manufacturing environment.

At HED Cycling, one of the pillars of the engineering team is the ability to wear many hats, and Allison was able to experience that daily. From developing and updating nearly our entire catalog of product weights, to building her CAD and 3D printing skills with meaningful small tooling, Allison greatly broadened her engineering skillset. She was instrumental in bringing our wheel building department forward as well. After taking the initiative to learn how to lace and build wheels herself, she followed with crystal clear documentation that is still in use today.

From my personal experience as an intern, I cannot stress enough the value of being able to reach out to a hiring manager instead of running through a computer algorithm. Right away I was able to grow my professional communication skillset. My internships brought up numerous challenges and exposed me to technologies that I went on to use in both research and during my job at SpaceX. I returned to HED Cycling because I had already been exposed to the great culture here, and it happens to be right in my backyard. I am happy that we have continued to work through SciTech because it has given me the opportunity to develop my engineering management skills now that I am on the other side of the table.

The great support of this program has allowed us to hire exceptional candidates. We really can provide an environment for them to stretch their academic skills and gain meaningful real-world experience. Thank you for the support you all have given to this program. I hope to see SciTech continue to receive funding in the future.

Sincerely,

Sam Somrock
Manufacturing Engineer II
HED Cycling Products

Mahesh Wosti
6048 Upper 51st St N
Oakdale, MN ,55128

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 26, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Technology Association's SciTech Internship Program. The program has been extremely rewarding both professionally and academically for me.

I was an undergraduate student majoring in Computer Science at the Minnesota State University Moorhead. In the January of 2021, I made my account with SciTech's website looking for internship opportunity. I was very committed to have at least one internship experience before I graduate. Getting internship was not easy with popular job search sites like LinkedIn and Indeed. And, I had nothing but failure when it comes to getting internship with these sites. Then, I started to frequently look at SciTech's website for new job posting and I was able to secure not 1 but 2 internships before I graduated in fall of 2021.

My first internship as a Software Architect Intern was at Flywheel.io located in Minneapolis. During my internship at flywheel, I got chance to learn several emerging technologies, mostly in DevOps and Cloud field of computer science. I was able to automate the process of setting local development environment for software designs mostly using Vagrant technology and Gitlab CI/CD tools. It reduced time for setup to few minutes which otherwise would have taken at least an hour with manual process. I was also involved in developing Python Command line Application which would monitor and track several applications within the organization, from scratch and would be used as an internal tool. I also got chance to do some research and compare the performance of two Kubernetes tool minikube and microk8s and switch to microK8s. It was overall a fantastic opportunity from best projects to best mentor I would have ever asked for as an intern.

My second internship was with Omcare Inc which is located in Bloomington, MN. Here, at this company, I learned mostly about backend servers and wrote API for business application using JavaScript and Node.js framework. I was able to migrate an entire API documentation from old RAML format to Open API Swagger technology which makes it very easy to manage API documentation. It was a pretty heavy lifting as there were more than 100 endpoints which I had to thoroughly go to, understand and then document. In addition to that, I also got chance to work on another CI/CD tool Jenkins and GitHub Actions.

This valuable experience would not have been possible without the MnTech's SciTech Program. These internships not only helped me learn skills which I would have never learned at my college classroom, it also built a confidence in me that I am ready to go out to real world. The best thing I love about SciTech program is the ability of applicant to contact the company directly and the feedback/summary session from SciTech staff at end of internship.

Internship as I see are offered only by big organization and are limited in number especially in tech industry, which goes mostly to student learning at big elite schools. SciTech has played a crucial role in ensuring that Minnesota students has access to this experience no matter which school they attend or no matter where they live within Minnesota. Inclusivity and equal opportunity mean a lot to me and I believe to every student all around US. SciTech has also played a crucial role in convincing small companies to hire intern who otherwise are hesitant about interns in general. Hence, increasing opportunities for Minnesota students and also including everybody.

I had a fantastic transition from college to full time position with Omcare Inc and SciTech has played an important role here. I strongly hope that other students like me who desires to work in STEM industries in Minnesota will also get same opportunity as I did from SciTech.

Thank you for your support,

Mahesh Wosti



33 South 10th Avenue
Hopkins, MN 55343

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Date 1/18/23

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. I've hired three students for each of the last two years through SciTech and it has a tremendous asset for my business. The SciTech job board gives me access to a variety of student candidates across the state with unique skill sets and fresh ideas.

A recent intern, Natalie Paulson, worked as a member of our product development team. They were able to experience a full release cycle working within an agile software development team, observing and learning much about how such teams plan and communicate.

During their internship, Natalie helped complete our wireframing and website that are used by our team on a regular basis. Natalie had some background and experience with programming, being a computer science major. The internship afforded Natalie the opportunity to learn a great deal about both subjects, and they showed meaningful progress in their aptitude for both.

SciTech's matching funds not only allowed our company to pay Natalie competitively, but also helped our recruiting process which was important for us as a smaller company. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Kind Regards,

Vivek Saxena

Vivek Saxena
CEO
Advisory Aerospace OSC

Dane Stimart

Director - Diagnostic Devices & Services



Respiratorysciencesinc.com

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Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 27, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am reaching out to voice my overwhelming support for the SciTech Internship Program. Last year our small seed funded medical device startup hired 4 STEM student interns across Mechanical, Electrical and Software Engineering. The ease of access to the student candidates via the job board, the extremely supportive SciTech staff and the 50% reimbursement was very important to our early-stage company.

All four interns had important responsibility during their internship. We hired (Elizabeth Brown) who lead development on creating an artificial lung to help validate our diagnostic medical device. She was instrumental in working between our clinical advisors, technical experts and management team to define, build and validate the system that would then allow our medical device to advance into human clinical trials.

Elizabeth allowed us to break down barriers while we had to closely watch our cash flow. Being able to burn down risk through an energetic and cost-efficient student who was looking to prove themselves was invaluable. She also received world class exposure working on interfacing science with mechanical and electrical systems to potentially help sick patients. Our other interns worked on lifecycle analysis, user interface software screens and data analytics. All these workstreams made it easier for us to justify the ask for additional funding to advance towards Series A.

Additionally, while the students were highly capable, being able to receive 50% reimbursements and offer a competitive pay to them is essential for both parties. We would not have been able to hire four engineers at the time, and the students also had their own bills and debt to pay down. Best of all, we excited local students about the business opportunities right here in Minnesota with at least one of them already coming onboard with us.

Please continue to support the SciTech (and enhance with more internships & higher rebates) program for small company growth and local student experience that will ultimately benefit all of Minnesota with a vibrant labor market!

Sincerely,

Dane Stimart

Director - Diagnostic Devices & Services



Respiratorysciencesinc.com

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Cell: 612.616.9184 | Email: Dane.Stimart@RespiratorySciencesInc.com

Jake Berran
9163 Azalea Way
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 19, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Technology Association's SciTech Internship Program. The program has been extremely rewarding both professionally and academically for me.

I am an undergraduate student in Mathematics at Oberlin College in Ohio with a passion for computer programming. In 2022, I applied for an internship at Hydra-Flex Inc. in Savage, MN. Hydra-Flex sells water nozzles to car washes and software to monitor chemical levels and equipment health, thus reducing waste. My internship has given me useful skills for computer programming and web development that will help my career in the future.

This internship experience would not have been possible without the MnTech's SciTech Program. With excellent mentors, I added lots of features to Hydra-Flex's existing websites and helped create a new application for customer service and product testers to help customers. In a small company, it was valuable to learn to work with a small team and have big responsibilities, and the funding provided by SciTech was a big part of making this possible. SciTech also helps keep tech talent in Minnesota. Thanks to this internship, I now have experience to bolster my future job search once I graduate from college.

I support the SciTech Internship Program, and hope others can have the same opportunity as me.

Thank you for your support,

Jake Berran

Tom Mack
Airgain, Inc.
3650 Annapolis Ln #110
Plymouth, MN 55447

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 18, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I lead recruiting for Airgain, a publicly traded wireless technology company with one of our main offices in Plymouth, MN. Our company has hired Interns through SciTech for several years running, and this last year filled 40% of our internships through this program. The quality of the students coming through the program are top notch with the ability to engage immediately with our technical staff. Two standout individuals have been James Tomlinson and Ben Bauman. These individuals worked on our hardware products and were responsible for PCB layout/design, schematic review, documentation, and sourcing components for the final product. The two individuals we hired from your program for the Summer are still working for us currently.

SciTech's program allows us to have a successful Intern program, especially with Airgain being a smaller company. This program helps us attract Intern and early career talent to support the company growth.

I and the Airgain family would greatly appreciate and recommend continued support for our intern program. The other interns we hired came from out of state and is clear this program is one of our main sources of talent in Minnesota. The Intern program creates the opportunity for students to gain valuable experience before becoming a full-fledged professional, and speaking from the recruiting standpoint, I can understand the challenge of needing to gain experience to compete in today's market.

Thank you,
Tom Mack
Talent Acquisition Business Partner
Airgain, Inc.

Gregory Shobert
833 22nd Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN, 55414

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 23, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Technology Association's SciTech Internship Program. The program has been extremely rewarding both professionally and academically for me, providing me with relevant academic experience and employment prospects post-college.

I am an undergraduate student in Biochemistry at the University of Minnesota. In 2022, I applied for an internship at NovoClade in Saint Paul, MN. NovoClade develops genetic biocontrol solutions for agricultural pests, and is performing cutting edge research in his field. Participating in this research and development has taught me arguably more about biochemistry than many of my academic courses.

During my internship, I've been working as a research scientist. My internship experience was invaluable. Learning to develop a genetic product from nothing and manage the many complex considerations of research and development, such as timeframes, consumer markets, and usability of a product was an experience I could not have received in school.

This internship experience would not have been possible without the MnTech's SciTech Program. Along with guidance from our supervisor, I and several other interns have made considerable progress in developing a method to eliminate pest populations of spotted wing drosophila with genetic engineering. We also made progress in developing an industrial scale system to mass rear millions of these insects under lab conditions. NovoClade is a small company, and they would not have had the funding to employ interns without SciTech. SciTech

also helps keep tech talent in Minnesota. This summer I now have offers at NovoClade, Cargill, and BioTechne in Minnesota, thanks to the experience I gained at NovoClade.

I strongly support the SciTech Internship Program. I hope other students who desire to work in STEM industries in Minnesota have the same experiences I had through the SciTech.

Thank you for your support,

Gregory Shobert

**Human Resources
Alliant Engineering
733 Marquette Ave, Suite 700
Minneapolis, MN 55402**

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 18, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. Alliant Engineering has hired many students through SciTech, and it has been a tremendous asset for our business. The SciTech job board gives us access to a variety of student candidates across the state with unique skill sets and fresh ideas.

Our last interns worked on a variety of projects and added real value to them. They were able to work on projects with their team that taught them new skills that they can use once they are out of school. We even had a few interns return for a second summer to continue learning and growing.

SciTech's matching funds not only allowed our company to pay our interns competitively, but also helped our recruiting process which was important for us as a smaller company. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.

Alliant appreciates the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Kind Regards,

**Makala Figueroa
Human Resources
Alliant Engineering**

Lakshay Dhingra
941 17th Ave SE,
Apt -8
Minneapolis, 55414

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 19, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Technology Association's SciTech Internship Program. The program has been extremely rewarding both professionally and academically for me.

I am a graduate student in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Minnesota. In 2022, I applied for an internship at Marrow Access Technologies in New Hope, MN. Marrow Access Technologies is a rising medical device company which works on medical devices related to therapeutic use of stem cells in ACL recovery. My internship was a very rewarding experience which helped me gain practical real-world experience.

During my internship, I've been working as Engineering Intern. My internship experience was invaluable. I worked in a variety of stages from working on new product development to working in the day-to-day management of quality issues. This experience helped me gain the experience which is invaluable to me and will help me get full time roles when I graduate. This internship experience would not have been possible without the MnTech's SciTech Program. Marrow Access Technologies is a small company, and they would not have had the funding to employ interns without SciTech. SciTech also helps keep tech talent in Minnesota. I strongly support the SciTech Internship Program. I hope other students who desire to work in STEM industries in Minnesota have the same experiences I had through the SciTech.

Thank you for your support,

Lakshay Dhingra

Jody Feist
Art Unlimited
9998 E. Lind Rd.
Cook, MN 55703

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 25, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. I've hired two students for each of the last two years through SciTech and it has a tremendous asset for my business. The SciTech job board gives me access to a variety of student candidates across the state with unique skill sets and fresh ideas.

Our last intern, Ruth Ann Carlson, worked as a member of the Software & Application team on a variety of projects. She was able to experience a full release cycle working within an agile software development team, observing and learning much about how such teams plan and communicate.

SciTech's matching funds not only allowed our company to pay Ruth Ann competitively, but also helped our recruiting process, which was important for us as a smaller company. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.

We have kept both the last two interns on with our company as their schedules allow. Once they graduate, and if they decide to stay, we are happy to have them go to full-time employment within the company. They have become a great asset to the company and a part of our AU team. If they decide to move on we know that they gained knowledge to help them in the next step of their Tech career.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Sincerely,

Jody Feist
Art Unlimited
Recruiting Coordinator

MN SENATE

Adrian Brietzke
1950 Lincoln Ave
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 19, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in support of the Minnesota Technology Association's SciTech Internship Program. The program has been extremely rewarding both professionally and academically for me.

I am an undergraduate student in mechanical engineering at the University of St. Thomas. In 2021, I applied for an internship at Engage Technologies in Brooklyn Park, MN. My internship was rewarding and valuable and has helped round out my academic work in preparing me for a career in mechanical engineering. I applied to nearly 50 different internships with only a handful even responding back to me, but with SciTech, I was able to get two different internships in relatively small amounts of time and many different interviews with very interesting companies.

During my internship, I've been working as a mechanical engineering intern. My internship experience was invaluable. Learning to develop a product from nothing and create a finished product that customers can use and other engineers can maintain was an experience I could only get outside of the classroom.

This internship experience would not have been possible without the MnTech's SciTech Program. Along with lots of guidance from our supervisors, I helped create a CAD models that are used to this day by engineers at the company. Engage Technologies is a small company, and they would not have had the funding to employ interns without SciTech. SciTech also helps keep

STEM in Minnesota. I was able to get another internship through SciTech during the summer of 2022 where I am currently working. I have also had many interviews with other companies that are going well due to the experience and knowledge I acquired at my internships because of SciTech.

I strongly support the SciTech Internship Program. I hope other students who desire to work in STEM industries in Minnesota have the same experiences I had through the SciTech.

Thank you for your support,

Adrian Brietzke

Erick Sipila
Sisu Solar
7429 N Forest Ln
Britt, MN 55710

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 25, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. I've hired one student last year through SciTech and it has a tremendous asset for my business. The SciTech job board gives me access to a variety of student candidates across the state with unique skill sets and fresh ideas.

Our last intern, Elle, worked as a solar installer with me and helped us install over 100 solar panels. This experience has taken her to greater heights and she is moving on up in the renewable energy industry! I was very very lucky to have gotten such a great worker.

SciTech's matching funds not only allowed our company to pay Elle competitively, but also helped our recruiting process which was important for us as a smaller company. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Sincerely,

Erick Sipila
Owner
Sisu Solar

Peter Loeffler
Blue Sky Designs, Inc.
2637 27TH AVE S, STE 209
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 27, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

The SciTech Internship Program provides a valuable link for small businesses to highly motivate and capable Minnesota students. Through the program last year, I hired an intern that contributed to the design and development and quality assurance of our products. As a business with less than ten employees, every person must contribute meaningful work. I knew that our intern, Emma Bouwman, was equipped to fully participate on our team.

During her internship Emma contributed to ten engineering improvement projects, implemented a new quality control inspection program, and wrote an updated product manual. She arrived with two years of general experience from her biomedical engineering program, and over the course of the summer, developed her mechanical engineer design skills and understanding of systems thinking, as well as gaining practice communicating across a team.

SciTech's matching funds not only allowed our company to pay Emma competitively, but also helped our recruiting process which was important for us as a smaller company. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and recommend its continued support.

Sincerely,

Peter Loeffler
President
Blue Sky Designs, Inc.

January 24, 2023

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Letter of Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

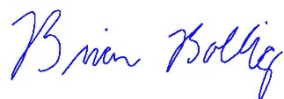
I am writing in support of the SciTech Internship Program. Bollig Inc first became aware of this program in early 2016 and have been pleased to utilize it for five of the past seven years.

We had three interns this past summer. The majority of their summers were spent assisting at project jobsites of several Bollig municipal clients. The interns' primary responsibilities were to observe, inspect and document construction activities related to the sanitary, drinking water, and storm system infrastructure upgrades occurring at each. This allowed them to experience civil engineering concepts firsthand while challenging their analytical and problem-solving abilities. Likewise, the interns gained important relationship-building and improved communication skills that are critical in building municipal client relationships.

The SciTech program's matching fund has allowed Bollig Inc to pay our interns competitively and improved our ability to recruit quality students which is particularly helpful for smaller firms like ours. With several interns on board during the summer months, our ability to oversee multiple crews at multiple locations throughout a tight construction season is vastly improved.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech Internship Program and would recommend its continued support. Not only has this program positively impacted our company and our local economy, it has also given additional and unique opportunities for STEM students everywhere.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Bollig".

Brian Bollig, PE
President



Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 30, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. We have hired two students for each of the last two years through SciTech and it has a tremendous asset for my business. The SciTech job board gives me access to a variety of student candidates across the state with unique skill sets and fresh ideas.

Our last intern, Samuel Froehle, worked as a member of the Product Quality team on a variety of projects, primarily writing automated tests. He was able to experience a full release cycle working within an agile software development team, observing and learning much about how such teams plan and communicate.

During his internship, Sam completed large automation project that are used by the Product Quality team on a regular basis. These projects help ensure higher quality releases and save hours of manual testing time for Product Quality engineers. Sam had some background and experience with programming, being a electrical engineering major, and had some experience with tools used in mechanical engineering. **The internship afforded Sam the opportunity to learn a great deal about both subjects, and he showed meaningful progress in his aptitude for both so that we hired him full time as an Electrical engineer after graduating from the university.**

SciTech's matching funds not only allowed our company to pay Sam competitively, but also helped our recruiting process which was important for us as a smaller company. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.



Calyan Technologies, Inc.
7300 Hudson Blvd North Suite 290
St Paul, MN 55128

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raj Patel".

Raj Patel
Co-Founder & CEO
612-669-0234 (mobile)

Rebecca Gordon, P.E.
ERA Structural Engineering
2550 University Ave. West Suite 423-S
St. Paul, MN 55114

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 27, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. I've hired five students over the past five years through SciTech and it has made all the difference in my business. The SciTech job board offers small businesses access to a broader base of intern candidates attending college throughout the state. SciTech's matching funds not only allowed our company to pay our interns competitively, but also helped our recruiting process which was important for us as a smaller company.

Our most recent intern, Kennan, worked in our general structural engineering group during the summer of 2022. He was able to take on many of the same tasks that we typically give to our entry level engineers. Kennan was enthusiastic about learning new skills from our engineers and came to work with a great attitude every day. The help he provided to our more experienced engineers allowed them to have more time to devote to their own projects and keep our clients happy with the service we are providing.

We have had the opportunity to extend full time positions to three of our past SciTech interns, Ravi, Ramzi and Libby. In the time they have been working with this us, both Ravi and Ramzi have become licensed professional engineers and are continuing to make great contributions to our day to day work efforts. They are both working toward becoming project managers with ERA Structural Engineering in the future. Libby joined our team full time last summer after she completed her engineering degree. In the time she has been with us, she has become an invaluable member of our staff and I am confident that she will continue to grow in her work with our firm. Kennan has about a year left to complete his graduate degree and we anticipate offering him a full-time position in the future as well.

We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota. Training new engineers takes time and resources, we find we have lower turnover in our newer full-time employees when they have had previous internship experience with our company. They start their careers knowing exactly what to expect from ERA.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Gordon, P.E.
Sr. Associate
ERA Structural Engineering



Shani Becker, Operations Manager
F3 Wireless
211 Saint Anthony Pkwy, Ste 100
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 10, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. I've hired a few students in the last two years and offering three students from last year full-time positions after graduation this year. The internships have been a tremendous asset for our business. The SciTech job board gives me access to a variety of candidates across the state with unique skill sets and fresh ideas.

Our last intern, Long, worked as an Electrical Engineer on a variety of projects. He was able to experience our customers project through many phases, observing and learning much about how such teams plan and communicate.

During his internship, Long, completed portions of a large design project we have been working on. He also had some experience with tools used with mechanical engineering and RF engineering. The internship afforded Long the opportunity to learn a great deal about both subjects, and he showed progress in his aptitude for both.

SciTech's matching funds not only allowed our company to pay Long competitively, but also helped our recruiting process which was important for us as a smaller company. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Kind Regards,

Shani Becker
Operations Manager
F3 Wireless



105 South Fifth Avenue
Suite 513
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Tel: 612-252-9070
Web: landform.net

Michelle Chapman
Landform Professional Services, LLC
105 South Fifth Ave., Ste. 513
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. The SciTech job board gives me access to various student candidates across the state with unique skill sets and fresh ideas.

SciTech's matching funds will allow our company to pay competitively and help our recruiting process, which is essential for us as a smaller company. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program will positively impact both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Sincerely,

Michelle Chapman
Vice President, Principal
Landform Professional Services, LLC



13355 – 10th Ave North Suite 110 Plymouth, MN 55441

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 24, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. Our companies have hired thirteen students over the past 10 years through SciTech and it has made all the difference in my business. Prior to this program, we had no internship program but the SciTech job board gave us access to and provided a springboard to this incredible program.

Our last intern, Kelsey, worked as a member of the Quality Engineering team on a variety of projects, primarily writing validation and testing protocols. She was able to experience many of the responsibilities a full-charge quality engineer within the medical device industry would experience, observing and learning much about how such teams plan and communicate.

Our medical device manufacturing companies have been able to offer meaningful hands-on opportunities (projects and daily routine tasks) within product development, quality, and manufacturing engineering disciplines to these students. These projects help ensure our devices are of the highest quality and certainly contribute to the efficiencies which continue to make our products cost effective to the healthcare facilities serving patients worldwide.

SciTech's matching funds not only allowed our company to pay our interns competitively, but also helped our recruiting process which was important for us as a smaller company. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Kind Regards,

Randal Gatzke
CFO

Susan Austin
MarPam Pharma, LLC
1000 Westgate Dr, Lab 104
St. Paul, MN 55114

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 26, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. This is our first experience with the program and it has a tremendous asset for my business. The SciTech job board gives me access to a variety of student candidates across the state with unique skill sets and fresh ideas.

Our current intern, Khalid, has been working with us for the past 4-5 months. As an early stage company it has been critical for us to get help, man hours, with a variety of work that helps keep us functioning smoothly with a small staff. Additionally, we think it is important to give young people interested in the sciences an opportunity to get experience in a competitive education and job market.

Without SciTech's matching funds we may not have looked at hiring at this position. The matching funds not only allowed our company to pay Khalid competitively, but also helped our recruiting process which was important for us as a smaller company. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Sincerely,
Susan Austin
Lab Director, Program Manager, HIV
MarPam Pharma, LLC



Susan Allen
Vice President Human Resources
Monteris Medical
131 Cheshire Lane
Minnetonka, MN 55305

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55125

January 26, 2023

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE SCITECH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development;

This letter is to provide our strong support for the SciTech Internship Program. Monteris has utilized this program since 2017 and we have had great success. The candidates are well educated, enthusiastic and clearly committed to maximizing the internship opportunity.

Most recently, we had five interns in the summer of 2022. All were given projects consistent with their STEM education and aligned with our corporate goals. Work assignments included assisting with research on blood brain barrier disruption caused by LITT (Laser Interstitial Thermal Therapy), participating on the project team assigned to improve test efficiency for assembly of the CIM Box (Cable Interface Module) portion of our NeuroBlate System and contributing to the successful implementation of JAMA software to manage project requirements and traceability. Clearly, our SciTech interns don't make coffee – we just hope they have time to drink a cup.

Participation in the SciTech Internship program helps with the completion of work. It has also contributed to the development of our leadership talent. We have been able to offer an individual contributor (IC) interested in managing people the opportunity to provide supervision to our interns. This creates an experiential learning opportunity for a Monteri IC. Some have gone on to move into supervisory roles in the organization while others have elected to remain an IC for the time being.

As a small company located in Medical Alley, SciTech's matching funds provide us with the ability to compete for STEM talent in a tough labor market. Most students are familiar with Medtronic, Abbott and Boston Scientific. They are not familiar with Monteris Medical. After spending the summer with us, three interns accepted our offer of employment and are currently part of the Monteris team.

We are very appreciative of Minnesota's support of the SciTech program and would recommend the state's continued sponsorship. It has benefited not just our company but also the students we've had an opportunity to work with and mentor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan" followed by a stylized flourish that extends to the right.

Susan Allen
Vice President Human Resources
Monteris Medical

Sue Marshall
NETZRO, SBC
817 S 5th Ave, #400
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 25, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. I've hired three students for each of the last two years through SciTech and it has a tremendous asset for my business. The SciTech job board gives me access to a variety of student candidates across the state with unique skill sets and fresh ideas.

Our last intern, Setthalak Tongkaw, worked as a member of the technology/engineering team on a variety of projects, primarily working on CAD to assist in designing the latest version of NETZRO technology. She was able to experience all functions of the design build process, observing and learning much about how such teams plan and communicate internally and externally. During her internship she was assigned to create first draft engineering plans and worked closely with NETZRO CSTO. She also worked closely with the director of business development updating the onboarding process for new hires. The internship afforded her the opportunity to learn a great deal about the design build process for food processing equipment, and to learn about the food upcycling industry.

SciTech's matching funds not only allowed our company to pay Setthalak Tongkaw competitively, but also helped our recruiting process which was important for us as a smaller company. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Sincerely,



Founder/CEO
NETZRO, SBC

Sajith Padmaja
Omcare Inc
2626 E 82nd Street, Suite 265
Bloomington MN 55425

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 30, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. I've hired three students for each of the last two years through SciTech and it has a tremendous asset for my business. The SciTech job board gives me access to a variety of student candidates across the state with unique skill sets and fresh ideas.

Our last intern, Mr. Mahesh Wosti, worked as a member of our product development team in multiple projects, including but not limited to software development and testing for embedded systems, server-side software and iOS and Android app development via flutter. He was able to experience a full release cycle working within an agile software development team, observing and learning much about how such teams plan and communicate. Based on his performance in the internship, we offered him a full-time role in the company which he accepted. Now Mahesh is one of the key players in our software development team.

Two other interns we hired in previous years were Mr. Abiola Adimi and Mr. Da Song. Both of them accepted offers from our company post their stellar performances in the internship. Da Song worked with us for close to two years and then he moved out of the organization to pursue a PhD in a prestigious university. Abiola still works with us and is an indispensable player in our team. He got promoted recently to Sr. Software Engineer role.

SciTech's matching funds not only allowed our company to pay Mahesh, Abiola and Da competitively, but also helped our recruiting process, which was important for us as a smaller company. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Kind Regards,

Sajith Padmaja
Vice President, Engineering,
Omcare Inc

Brian Brown
Peytant Solutions Inc
3650 Annapolis Lane North, Suite 180
Plymouth, MN 55447

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 11, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. I've hired multiple students for each of the last 5 years through SciTech and it has been a tremendous asset for my business. The SciTech job board gives me access to a variety of student candidates across the state with unique skill sets and fresh ideas.

Our last intern, Mohammad Ahmed worked as a member of the Product Development team developing and conducting product performance testing required to gain regulatory approval for medical devices. He was able to experience a full cycle of developing the test method, conducting the tests, and reporting the data in a fashion that meets FDA requirements.

SciTech's matching funds not only allowed our company to pay Mohammad competitively, but also helped our recruiting process which was important for us as a smaller company. SciTech's website is easy to use and greatly simplifies our intern recruitment process. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Brown", written in a cursive style.

Brian Brown
VP of R&D and Operations
Peytant Solutions Inc



January 26, 2023

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. PlastiCert has made use of the SciTech program for many years now. We regard it as a win-win situation for the students and ourselves.

We routinely have an intern on staff most times of the year. They work part time around their class schedule during the school year. In summer they work full time. We assign them projects as well as have them participating in day-to-day activities on the Production Floor. We have found that the experiences we provide our interns has made them highly prized in the industrial marketplace. After graduation, their new employers see immediate return on their hiring investment. Practically all of our interns remain in Minnesota.

SciTech's matching funds not only allow our company to pay our interns competitively, but also helped our recruiting process which was important for us as a smaller company. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Craig W. Porter', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Craig W. Porter
President/Owner
PlastiCert, Inc.

Go to our [PlastiCert Website](#)
Go to our [LinkedIn Page](#)
Follow us on Twitter [@PlastiCert](#)

The mission of PlastiCert is to provide our customers plastic injection molding expertise in an environment that fosters personal growth, professional challenge and a recognized responsibility to the community around us.



2020 2021 2022

Kristen Henderson, Procellis Technology, Inc.
6820 Shingle Creek Parkway, Suite # 2
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 24, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. The SciTech program has proved an invaluable resource for us to find talented, highly educated team members. Over the last 2 years, we have hired a total of 6 interns. Four of those are now highly-valued, permanent team members. The SciTech job board gives me access to a variety of student candidates across the state with unique skill sets and fresh ideas.

One of a group of five interns that started in 2021, Nathan Haleen, is now our Lead Developer – Division Lead. Another, Julia Ha, is our Web and Design Specialist, and another, Shouayee Vue, is our Application and Cloud Specialist. This team has been integral in developing the Dev/Ops branch of our business, as well as providing valuable support to our Security offerings. An intern hired in 2022, Kasup Hewapathirana, is now permanently hired and an integral part of our System Support team.

SciTech's matching funds not only allowed our company to pay these interns competitively, but also helped our recruiting process which was important for us as a smaller company. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Sincerely,

Kristen Henderson
Human Resources
Procellis Technology, Inc.

Keith Summers
Productivity Quality, Inc.
15150 25th Ave N
Plymouth, MN 55447

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 18, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. I've worked with multiple students over the years through SciTech and it has a tremendous asset for my business. The SciTech job board gives me access to a variety of student candidates across the state with unique skill sets and fresh ideas.

Two of those internships also resulted in full time employment for those interns.

SciTech's matching funds not only allowed our company to pay competitively, but also helped our recruiting process which was important for us as a smaller company. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Sincerely,

Keith Summers

CEO, Productivity Quality, Inc.

MN Senate

Beth Taylor
Top Dog PC
713 Minnehaha Ave E
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 18, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Xiong and Members of the House Committee on Workforce Development Finance and Policy,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. At my previous employer, we hired 6 interns through the SciTech program and made full-time positions for 4 of them. I was very impressed with the quality of candidates in the SciTech program! We are looking forward to rolling out a new internship program with my current employer, Top Dog PC, and we are eager to include SciTech applicants as part of that program.

With my previous employer, Procellis Technology, we hired several interns who worked with our development team to create, document, and begin to refine processes and procedures that are still followed by that department today. Procellis hired Nathan Haleen and Shouayee Vang as full-time staff after that internship and still works part-time with Julia Ha. Kasup Hewapathirana was hired for a separate internship, working on the non-development side of the business, and became a full-time member of our mobile solutions team.

All of these students made invaluable contributions to Procellis during and after their internship periods. This was a fabulous way for us to invest in local talent and grow our team. The matching funds provided by SciTech allowed us to hire ahead of customer growth, which gave us breathing room to set up processes before becoming overwhelmed with work on contracts. Streamlining our recruitment process to give heavier weight to SciTech applicants also helped us to focus on a smaller pool of higher quality candidates. Most important, though is the opportunity for us at Procellis and for my new employer Top Dog PC to show students and/or recent graduates that there is so much opportunity for them to help create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota. We can't wait to implement our new

internship program at Top Dog, and SciTech is the reason we are pushing that program forward. This program leads to much higher quality interns, who then convert to high quality staff!

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Sincerely,

Beth Taylor
IT Project Manager
Top Dog PC

Tony Hyk
TheraTec, Inc
1191 Pike Lake Dr
New Brighton, MN 55112

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 18, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. I hired one student last summer through SciTech and the program was a tremendous asset for my business. The program allowed me to hire an intern that I would have otherwise not been able to hire. And in turn, that intern learned valuable skills working in software development instead of spending the summer bagging groceries.

Our intern, Joe, worked as a member of the Software Development team. He helped us test new releases of software and he learned out create documentation for medical software. He is pursuing a degree in computer science, but prior to his internship, he didn't have a specific path in mind. Afterward I think he had a much better idea of what type of a career he wants to pursue when he graduates in May. It's possible we might have a position for him.

SciTech's matching funds not only allowed our company to pay Joe competitively, but also helped our recruiting process which was important for us as a smaller company. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Sincerely,

Tony Hyk

CEO

Theratec, Inc

Marina Brockway, PhD
1265 Grey Fox Rd, Suite 400
Arden Hills, MN 55112

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 27, 2023

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Development,

I am writing in strong support of the SciTech Internship Program. I've hired three students for each of the last two years through SciTech and it has a tremendous asset for my business. The SciTech job board gives me access to a variety of student candidates across the state with unique skill sets and fresh ideas.

Our last intern, Andreas Martinez, works as a member of the Product Development and Testing team on a variety of projects, primarily conducting targeted studies and helping with new product development. He was able to experience a full release cycle working within an agile software development team, observing and learning much about how such teams plan and communicate.

SciTech's matching funds not only allowed our company to pay Andreas Martinez competitively, but also helped our recruiting process which was important for us as a smaller company. We enjoy how the SciTech program helps us attract local students while they are still in school so we can show them how they are able to create value within companies that are growing right here in Minnesota.

I appreciate the state's past support of the SciTech program and would recommend its continued support. This program has positively impacted both our company and our local economy while providing hands-on learning for STEM students.

Sincerely,

Marina Brockway,
CTO
VivaQuant