



SFY 2018-19 SciTechsperience Internship Program at The Minnesota High Tech Association

Progress Report

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Employment and Training Programs Division

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Background

The 2017 Minnesota Legislature ([Laws of Minnesota, 2017, Chapter 94, Section 1, Subdivision 3\(i\)](#)) appropriated \$2,700,000 for State Fiscal Years 2018-19 to connect college students in STEM majors (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) with paid internships in small to mid-sized Minnesota based companies (250 or fewer employees worldwide). This is an update on the status of this grant to the Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA). The legislation directed the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to grant funds to MHTA to support SciTechsperience, a program of internships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). The program must work towards increasing the participation of women and other underserved populations.

The amount available to MHTA was \$2,585,000 after DEED retained five percent of the appropriation for administrative purposes.

The target population includes:

- Two and four-year college students engaged in STEM studies; and
- Graduate students engaged in STEM studies (limit of 15 percent)

Participating companies receive from MHTA 50 percent reimbursement of the intern's wage, capped at \$2,500 per intern.

Program Overview

To serve the student participant, MHTA uses its allocation to offer:

- An online application form;
- An online searchable job board that is updated daily;
- Personal support for any questions;
- Resources for interviewing tips, resume help, and what employers want;
- Recruitment of companies that offer hands-on internships in STEM fields;
- Screening of business applications to ensure positions meet program criteria;
- Notification of new job postings; and
- Highlighting of students in emails to companies when they first apply.

To serve the business participants, MHTA offers:

- An online application;
- An online search of intern candidates;
- Personal support for any questions;
- Resources for how to host a quality internship;
- Recruitment and prescreening of student applicants to make sure they meet program criteria;
- Targeted recruiting of candidates as needed;

- Notification of new student applicants; and
- Highlighting in an email student candidate when new jobs are posted.

MHTA leverages established relationships with its partners in higher education and organizations with a focus in STEM to reach underrepresented student populations. An example of this kind of partnership is MHTA’s involvement with the North Star STEM Alliance (NSSA), which seeks to double the number of minority students attaining STEM degrees in the next 5 years. MHTA staff has also participated in job fairs and other events for the Society of Women Engineers, National Society of Black Engineers, MSTEM (Minorities in STEM), and AISES (American Indian Scientist and Engineers Society) and has expanded its visibility on social media sites.

In the 2018-19 program year, the industry breakdown of the hiring companies was:

Industry	Number of Hiring Companies
IT/Computer Technology	91
Mining, Materials, Manufacturing and Processing	91
Biotechnology and Life Sciences	83
Engineering Services	92
Agriculture, Food and Forestry	16
Aerospace/Defense	12
Fuels, Energy, and Energy Management	7

The internships were located throughout the state, with 47 percent of companies located in the suburbs, 26 percent located in the Twin Cities, and 27 percent in Greater Minnesota.

The median size of a company hiring a SciTechsperience intern in the 2018-19 program year was 24 employees.

Participant Data

Three-hundred ninety-three (393) participants were hired as interns in the 2018-19 program year. The gender breakdown is as follows:

Gender	Number of Interns	Percentage of Interns
Female	104	26%
Male	289	73%
Total	393	100%

The following data describes the race/ethnicity of the hires:

Ethnicity	Number of Interns	Percentage of Interns
White	290	74%
Racial/Ethnic Minority	103	26%
Total	393	100%

Based on the permanent addresses of the interns, 39 percent came from the suburbs, 31 percent came from Greater Minnesota, 20 percent came from Minneapolis/St. Paul, and 9 percent came from out of state.

Interns came from the following colleges or universities in program year 2018-19:

College/University	Number of Interns	Percentage of Interns
University of Minnesota	168	43%
MN State Colleges/Universities	95	24%
MN Private Colleges	55	14%
MN For Profit Colleges	7	2%
Out of State Colleges	68	17%
Total	393	100%

Expenditure Data

Expenditures through September 30, 2019:

Budget Category	Budget	Expenditures
Administration	\$53,072	\$39,783
Internship Work Experience	\$1,792,500	\$1,639,847
Direct Services Project Staff	\$412,128	\$374,246
Transportation/Travel	\$17,000	\$10,315
Contract/Consulting	\$286,300	\$153,034
Other Activities	\$4,000	\$4,000
Total	\$2,565,000	\$2,221,225

Success Story

Detailed success stories for two interns who were employed at Control, a small New Brighton, MN based manufacturer, can be found at the [SciTechsperience website](#).