

HOUSE COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 – Vermont Intern Program

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The Vermont Intern Program is a statewide internship program funded through the Vermont Department of Labor's Workforce Education and Training Fund, and administered by Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (VBSR).

Our mission is to connect college students and recent graduates with employers in Vermont, support the development of high-quality internship opportunities, and cultivate an applicant pool and employer community that is prepared to meet the state's emerging workforce needs.

In order to advance our mission, we:

EDUCATE:

- Applicants are advised on career pathways, workplace readiness & professional development
- Employers are advised on creating internships and managing interns to successful outcomes

SUPPORT:

- Applicants receive assistance with the search and application process
- Employers receive assistance with recruitment and candidate screening
- Employers and interns are receive support before, during and after the internship

CONNECT:

- Applicants find PAID internships and employers are matched with high quality candidates
- Employers and applicants are linked through direct referrals and recommendations
- Applicants are invited/encouraged to attend networking and professional development events
- All interns receive a FREE membership to Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility, giving them access to the members and member events of a statewide business organization

In addition to our direct service to employers and applicants, we strongly believe in the power of collaboration and coordination, and we work statewide to bring together students, career service professionals, employers, community partners and state leaders to identify opportunities.

The Program currently serves nearly 2,000 current students and recent graduates, over 200 employers and 21 colleges and universities. Interns must be currently matriculated in an undergraduate or graduate degree at a Vermont college or university, from Vermont and enrolled in a undergraduate or graduate degree out of state, or any recent graduate up to two years post graduation currently living in Vermont. Any Vermont employer may participate.

We are strictly focused on PAID internships, and to date we have placed over 400 interns in high-quality internships in Vermont. Paid interns are more committed to their work, their employer and their community, and further Vermont's economic development goals as contributors to Vermont's tax base. It is estimated that the interns placed through the Vermont Intern Program since 2008 have earned over \$700,000 in taxable wages.