



SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING & GENERAL AFFAIRS

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VBSR 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 Vermont employers who have paid internships, 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 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 over 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 a 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 360 interns in high-quality internships in Vermont. Paid interns are more committed to their work, their employer and their community, and further state 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 \$831,000 in taxable wages.

Since 2008 we have had the following impact on Vermont's economic development:

- 360 college students and recent graduates have been placed in PAID internships, earning an estimated \$831,000 of taxable wages.
- At least 20 of these interns have been hired to full-time positions with their internship hosts, and many more have acquired other full-time positions as a result of their internships.
- 390 businesses from all sectors and areas of the state have used the program to grow their companies, develop their internal HR infrastructure and recruit entry-level employees.
- Young people in Vermont have been exposed to over 800 Vermont employers offering high-quality PAID internships in our growing sectors, including Food Systems, Renewable Energy, Manufacturing, Professional, Scientific and Technical Services and Software Development.

Thank you to the committee for your support of the Vermont Intern Program and our work serving our state's employers and young people. VBSR plans to expand our programming to include young professionals, and we look forward to your input on this initiative and the opportunity to report back to you on our accomplishments.

About VBSR

Founded in 1990, VBSR is a statewide, non-profit business association with a mission to advance business ethics that value multiple bottom lines: economic, social, and environmental. VBSR members employ more than 13% of Vermont's workforce and generate more than 4 billion dollars in revenue annually. We strive to help members set a high standard for protecting the natural, human and economic environments of the state's residents, while remaining profitable. We advance this mission through education, public influence and workplace quality. www.vbsr.org

About the Vermont Intern Program

The Vermont Intern Program connects college students, recent graduates and young professionals with career opportunities in Vermont. Since 2008, the program has helped bridge the gap between Vermont's thousands of graduates seeking career leads and hundreds of employers seeking skilled workers, with the goal of retaining graduates and growing Vermont's workforce. 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 workforce needs. www.internvt.org