4-10-2013

The Tech Apprentice Internship Program: Engaging Youth in IT

Felicia Vargas
Boston Public Schools

Olu Ibrahim
TechBoston

Neil Sullivan
Boston Private Industry Council

Deborah Boisvert
University of Massachusetts Boston, deborah.boisvert@umb.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.umb.edu/ocp_posters

Part of the Community Engagement Commons, Education Commons, and the Science and Technology Policy Commons

Recommended Citation
http://scholarworks.umb.edu/ocp_posters/86

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Community Partnerships at ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. It has been accepted for inclusion in Office of Community Partnerships Posters by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. For more information, please contact library.uasc@umb.edu.
The Tech Apprentice Internship Program: Engaging Youth in IT

Summary/Abstract

The Tech Apprentice program was designed to provide Boston Public School (BPS) students work-based learning opportunities within information technology (IT) departments across a diverse array of industries for seven-week, paid summer internships. A robust technology internship program encourages BPS students to pursue IT-related post-secondary degrees. Tech Apprentice has expanded from 25 student placements in the first summer to 123 who were employed in 2012, and the program has placed over 600 students in internships since the program launched in 2006. 98% of graduates attend college and 78% are pursuing an IT-related degree.

Goals and Objectives

- To strengthen a computing industry pipeline in the Boston area. (BATEC business partners concerned about low numbers of graduates majoring in computing disciplines).
- To provide an experience that will transform students’ perceptions of IT field and realize IT jobs are exciting, creative, and beneficial to others (prior to entering college).
- To leverage existing and future employment opportunities: consistent demand for employees who develop, apply, integrate, and administer computing technologies and who adapt quickly to rapid technological advances.

Results/Impacts

651 students have participated

Females: 45%  Males: 55%

- 98% of graduates go to college
- 78% pursue IT majors or careers
- 98% of alumni graduate from college within 4 years
- 74 companies have participated
- 88% of employers are repeat customers

Approaches and Methods

BPS’s TechBoston program (a BATEC partner) leverages Summer Jobs Program to create technology-focus serving students in advanced technology courses

Tech Apprentice Employer Manager manages application process: Screens/prepares potential interns; Manages employer recruiting (with support from Boston PIC and industry advisors).

Companies control interview/selection process; option to attend supervisor training.

Students are paid $2500 for 7 week summer job; participate in 3 day workplace readiness workshop; receive check-ins by staff to ensure successful experience.

Conclusion/Next Steps

Conclusions

- Giving young people of Boston opportunities to work inside Boston businesses builds a stronger community.
- Talented high school students add value to businesses.
- Many interns have employment extended or hired on part-time basis while in college.

Next Steps

- A model for a scale project within two Massachusetts Community Colleges.
- Poised to scale to additional school districts and higher ed institutions.

Resources

Two Guides Produced:
1. Tech Apprentice Manual – High School
2. Tech Apprentice Manual – Community College

Download guides at: http://batec.org/publications

Partner Information

Felicia Vargas, Director, Office of Instructional and Information Technology, TechBoston, Boston Public Schools
Olu Ibrahim, Tech Apprentice Employer Manager
Neil Sullivan, Executive Director, Boston Private Industry Council
Deborah Boisvert, Executive Director, BATEC, College of Advancing and Professional Studies; UMass Boston

Employment Projections 2010-2020 by Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects over half of all STEM jobs will be in computing, percentage continues over time (topping 20%). Referenced from http://www.bls.gov/emp/)