

WORK-BASED LEARNING: A TOOL FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Deeper Learning is an education approach that recognizes that preparing today's students for career readiness extends beyond the classroom.

When students are given the opportunity to gain real-world experience and immerse themselves in professional settings, they will not only gain a deeper understanding of core academic subjects, they will also gain the necessary skills to be successful in the workforce. Work-based learning opportunities, such as internships and apprenticeships, provide this real-world connection, bolster the necessary skills to be gainfully employed and generate awareness of local industries and future opportunities in their community. Throughout the country, businesses are recognizing the importance of these immersion and work-based learning programs for student success and are helping grow the workforce of tomorrow by offering these opportunities today.

High-Tech Internships for Tomorrow's Employees—Dayton, OH.

Noticing an increasing demand for skilled employees in the rapidly growing high-tech industry, the Dayton Chamber of Commerce supports and promotes the [Third Frontier Internship Program](#), which aims to develop a talented and capable workforce in Ohio. The program offers local college students immersive opportunities at companies in the following fast-growing technologies and technology process industries: Advanced Energy, Advanced Materials, Advanced Propulsion, Biomedical, Instruments, Controls and Electronics and Information Technology.

- **Student Benefits:** Students are exposed to the necessary skills for working in these industries, and are given assistance in finding post-graduation employment in these fields.
- **Employer Benefits:** These internship opportunities allow businesses to generate awareness about future career opportunities, ensure that students are graduating with the kinds of skills they need to do the job and retain top talent in the state. *Businesses are provided with reimbursement for each eligible internship that is matched with private funds.*
- **Chamber Role:** The Dayton Chamber serves as the West Central Ohio Regional Partner for this initiative, providing technical assistance, verifying employer eligibility and processing reimbursements.
- **Program Results:** Over 700 interns from 23 universities have participated in the program to date, resulting in 60 percent post-internship employment.

Introducing High-School Students to the Workplace--Spokane, WA. Greater Spokane Incorporated (GSI)'s Education & Workforce Department, in partnership with local school districts and the Spokane Area Workforce Development Council, developed [Work 101](#), an internship program that provides students with meaningful, offsite, learning opportunities that build academic, technical and career readiness.

What can your Chamber do?

- Advocate for the benefits of work-based opportunities among local businesses.
- Create a network to connect interested students and school districts with participating businesses.
- Set clear guidelines and expectations for all participants.
- Align projects and opportunities with coursework offered in schools.
- Connect with Chambers of Commerce who have run successful internships to discuss best practices.

