Foundation for California Community Colleges

Career Pathway Student Internship Program

Doing What Matters: For Jobs and the Economy

“Doing What Matters” is an economic and workforce development framework created by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office to enhance the role of Community Colleges in developing the state’s workforce. Through short-term, skills-based training focused on in-demand skills, “Doing What Matters” helps bridge the gap between the need for experienced workers in key industries and the available labor pool.

About the Community Colleges
California’s Community Colleges serve more than 2.6 million students a year and play a vital role in California’s economic recovery by providing students with the education and training needed to compete in the current job market. Our campuses are located throughout the state and are responsive to the needs of individual communities and industry sectors. In addition, Community Colleges provide opportunities to populations such as veterans and displaced workers—helping these groups gain the skills needed to enter the workforce.

Our Program
The Foundation for California Community Colleges (Foundation), the official foundation of the Chancellor’s Office, is a technical assistance provider (TAP) partner for the “Doing What Matters” Program. Since 1998, the Foundation has administered the Career Pathway program, a critical link between California employers and students. Students from California colleges and universities are paired with employers for valuable internship experiences, fostering a mutually-beneficial relationship and furthering the goals of the “Doing What Matters” program.

Providing Work-Based Learning through Paid Internships
Paid internships offered through Career Pathway provide valuable work-based learning opportunities, which play an important role in the development of in-demand skills and produce experienced and high-value employees. Career Pathway partners with both public and private sector employers, and is focused on the 10 “Doing What Matters” program priority and emerging economic sectors across the state. Along with helping close the skills gap, Career Pathway also promotes student success.
Recruitment Solutions for Employers

By handling “back office” administrative tasks, the Foundation’s Career Pathway Program makes it easy for employers to offer paid student internship programs.

Our experienced staff takes care of student recruitment and hiring, maintains employment records, tracks student outcomes, and handles all administrative functions, allowing employers to focus on creating meaningful internships. Employers can have peace of mind in knowing they are partnering with a higher education nonprofit that has made positive contributions to communities statewide.

Getting Started

With the help of enthusiastic faculty, staff, and employers, we can continue to create meaningful internships and work-based learning opportunities for California students, helping them become catalysts for helping close the skills gap throughout California and the nation. Contact us to learn how you can become a part of this important project.

Benefit for Employers

• Simplifies the process of creating student internship positions
• Facilitates partnerships with local colleges and regional consortia
• Increases company recognition in the community and region
• Creates a pool of workers with in-demand skills prepared to fill open positions

Benefits for Students and Colleges

• Helps students secure paid positions in their field of study
• Increases the number of Americans with post-secondary skills and credentials
• Helps students develop much needed “soft skills” in real job environments
• Supports workforce development in key areas
• Helps move important momentum points and leading indicators of success