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News Release

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Durham Seeks Businesses & Organizations to Provide Youth Internships

Businesses Invited to Participate in February 6th Job Fair

DURHAM, N.C. – If your business or organization is looking to provide real-world work opportunities for youth interns between the ages of 14 to 24, then the [Durham YouthWork Internship Program](#) (DYIP) can help make it happen.

The DYIP is a program of the [Durham Workforce Development Board](#), a private-sector driven board administratively supported by the [City of Durham Office of Economic and Workforce Development](#), and works closely with Made in Durham, Durham County, Durham Technical Community College, Durham Public Schools, and many other community and industry partners.

DYIP is now seeking business and organizations to provide opportunities for youth to be exposed to real-world labor expectations. Businesses and organizations can participate in the program by bringing a youth into their workspace for six-to-eight weeks or longer and put them to work.

According to Director Kevin Dick with the City of Durham Office of Economic and Workforce Development, businesses can benefit greatly by hosting an intern since these youth can provide additional help for projects, provide additional staff support, and contribute new ideas and energy. “Bring a youth into your workspace and show them not only what kind of work you do, but also how to be excellent at doing it. If you work in a company that provides that first experience of what it is to work as a youth, you have the opportunity to imprint your joy, your hard work, and your intelligence on our next generation,” said Dick. “You also have the

opportunity to mold what could be your own future workforce. If you take the opportunity to influence and inspire our next generation, you can light the way by example.”

To help participating businesses find their 2016 spring and summer interns, a Job Fair is set for Saturday, February 6 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Holton Career and Resource Center, 401 N. Driver St., Durham. During this event, employers will be provided with tables to share their positions and meet potential interns. While DYIP is open to youth ages 14 to 24, participating businesses are not required to hire within that full age range.

According to Dick, the DYIP works with individual businesses to tailor the internship to meet their needs. The program also provides interns who have received pre-employment job skills training led by Durham Public Schools, and will provide support to the intern throughout the duration of the internship. The program will also handle the review of youth applications, interviewing the applicants, and recommending internship matches.

The cost for businesses to serve as an internship host site can range from \$1,400 to \$2,400, depending on the number of weeks and hours worked by the intern. Businesses also have the option of reviewing applications and interviewing potential interns. Businesses can also sponsor an intern to be placed at another organization if they are not able to host an intern at their work site.

“It is often a challenge for businesses to consider the workforce of tomorrow and what they can do to improve their bottom lines, while bettering our community. The Durham YouthWork Internship Program is a way to meet this dual challenge,” said Dick. “We need our business community to show these youth the ropes, lead by example, set high expectations, and demand the best. This is what our youth need now in order to be the best workforce of tomorrow.”

Businesses and organizations interested in hiring youth for the summer and/or after-school internships should sign up online by completing an [online position request form](#) or contact Senior Employment Program Coordinator Malinda Todd with the City’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development at (919) 560-4965, ext.15220 or by [email](#).

About the Durham Workforce Development Board

The [Durham Workforce Development Board](#) is a consortium agreement between the City and County of Durham. The [City of Durham Office of Economic and Workforce Development](#) serves as the administrative entity and staff to the board. Through collaborative partnerships, the board is the local policy organization responsible for the planning, oversight, and coordination of workforce development initiatives that help support economic development in Durham.

About the City of Durham Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the [Office of Economic and Workforce Development](#) helps ensure that Durham has a strong and diverse economy by increasing the city's tax base through several revitalization initiatives, including new development efforts in the central city area. The department also plans and promotes cultural awareness and events, identifies and recruits target industries as well as assesses and trains Durham residents to fill new jobs.

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