



# THE WORKPORT@PLC



## WHAT IS THE WORKPORT@PLC?

The Workport@PLC is a coordinated effort by the Philadelphia Learning Collaborative (PLC) and its member high schools to match interested and qualified students with employer internships that expose them to careers, provide opportunities to master workplace skills, and help them to understand the connections between success in school and work.

## WHY IS IT NEEDED?

Research shows us what we know intuitively to be true: workplace experiences have the power to help students perform better academically, get better jobs and earn more money, and avoid risky behaviors. We also know that these experiences are powerful for employers, bringing new energy, diversity, and excitement to their workplaces.

But research also documents that students in urban centers have much less access to these life-changing opportunities than their more affluent, suburban peers. The Workport@PLC is specifically designed to reverse that trend by expanding opportunities for deserving young people while at the same time creating multiple benefits for partnering companies.

## WHO IS INVOLVED?

The following Philadelphia high schools are currently participating in the Workport@PLC:

- Building 21
- El Centro
- Science Leadership Academy-Beeber
- Science Leadership Academy-Center City
- String Theory Schools
- The U School
- Vaux Big Picture High School
- The Workshop School

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

It's simple and straightforward. The Workport@PLC will provide:

- ✓ extensive consultation with interested employers to develop and support internship opportunities
- ✓ accessible platforms for employers to list internships available to students in multiple high schools
- ✓ a centralized, searchable internship database by type and category enabling schools to match qualified students with positions of interest
- ✓ strategies to promote efficient student screening and interviewing by employers
- ✓ strong, on-demand support for employers and interns on-the-job
- ✓ clear standards for workplace experiences combined with data collection and evaluation to ensure effectiveness and continually improve the system



## HOW WILL MY BUSINESS BENEFIT?

Participating in the Workport @PLC can produce benefits for employer partners, by:

- **Energizing workplaces** – Interns bring a fresh perspective and eagerness to learn. They also provide an opportunity for your employees to develop supervisory skills and experience the rewards of mentoring.
- **Strengthening tech and media expertise, and accessing new markets** – High school students are digital natives who get social media. Everyday interactions can easily become ad hoc tech support or informal focus groups.
- **Promoting workplace diversity and sourcing new talent** – Research shows that better decisions are made when there's a variety of perspectives in the mix, which, in turn, can produce improved outcomes for employers.
- **Sourcing new talent and accessing new markets** – Hosting interns also affords employers opportunities to identify, nurture, and train potential employees, while also learning how to communicate with and market to young consumers.
- **Publicly recognizing employer partners as community builders** – We will give you all the credit you deserve for giving back to the community, including your company's name or logo in press releases and local media ads.

## WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?

Fill out our online [Employer Interest Form](#).

## ABOUT THE PHILADELPHIA LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

The Philadelphia Learning Collaborative is a growing, regional network of K-12 schools, universities, nonprofits, and school districts with a shared commitment to student-centered, *deeper learning*. Our overarching goal is to expand the number of students who have access to schools that prioritize active, participatory, and real-world teaching and learning; authentic assessment and demonstration of mastery; citizenship and community; and mission-driven, distributed leadership. We work to strengthen the field by building systems and structures that support existing and new schools with progressive education models in Philadelphia. Collectively, our member schools serve over 5,000 students—an enrollment larger than 422 of the 500 school districts in Pennsylvania.