

ACCE Kicks Off Internship Program



This academic year marked the beginning of ACCE's internship program. The program began in September of 2006, and currently 74 11th grade students are working at 37 different internship sites.

The program is geared to-

ward 11th grade students and was designed to provide the students with a valuable work experience. ACCE's vision for the program is that it will provide interns with an opportunity to explore careers and teach them work skills that can not be learned in the classroom setting.

Students attend internships every Wednesday from 9am to 4pm (although the hours vary depending on the worksite) for the duration of the 11th grade year. Students work closely with mentors at each internship site and also with a coach at the school who ensures that the student is having a meaningful work experience.

ACCE attempts to match students with internships

that meet their interests and teach them something new. Some of the tasks that the students are working on include helping refurbish computers, working with children in a hospital setting, assisting legislators, connecting people with needed services, and helping tutor people learning English.

Although the internship program is in its first year, there is already a broad and diverse group of internship sites, and ACCE plans to continue expanding the number and variety of internship sites so that we can ensure that students have a positive work experience that they both learn from and enjoy.

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ACCE Internship Sites

- Aids Interfaith Residential Services, Inc. (AIRS)
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- Antonio's Bakery
- Baltimore City Department of Planning
- Baltimore City Department of Social Services
- Baltimore City Police Department
- Bio Technical Institute of Maryland
- Centerstage
- Clyburn Arboretum
- Councilwoman Belinda Conway
- Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation
- East Baltimore Technology Resource Center
- Eastside Career Center Digital Learning Lab
- Fitness Fun & Games
- Hampden Family Center
- Hyatt Regency Hotel
- Illume Communications
- Johns Hopkins Hospital
- Johns Hopkins University Center for Adolescent Health
- Joyce Hanson Daycare
- Manor Care
- Maryland Mentoring Partnership
- Mayor's Office of Cable and Communications
- Morgan State University Athletics
- MVA in Glen Burnie
- Northwest Career Center
- Northwest Career Center Digital Learning Lab
- Reginald F. Lewis Museum
- Signature Management
- Sinai Hospital
- Spot Lighters Theatre
- The Baltimore Museum of Industry
- The Hispanic Apostolate
- The Science Center
- University of Maryland Medical Center
- Women Behind the Community (WO-BE-CO)
- Woodhome Elementary

Director's Corner: A Message from Danique Dolly



Education is a social process. Education is growth. Education is, not a preparation for life; education is life itself. –John Dewey

Hello and thank you for reading the ACCE Internship Newsletter. This newsletter is our way to communicate with you about internships at ACCE.

“THE INTERNSHIP GIVES STUDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY THE SKILLS LEARNED IN SCHOOL, SUCH AS PROBLEM SOLVING, CREATIVE THINKING, ORGANIZATION, AND WORKING WITH OTHERS”

Internship Q&A

Q: How much time do students spend every week at their internship?

A: Students go to their internships every Wednesday. Many students work 9am to 4pm, but hours depend on the internship site. The day is treated like a work day, so the mentor helps set the time.

Q: How long does the internship last?

A: The internship is designed to begin in the fall of the students' junior year and to continue throughout the entire academic year. However, as this year was the inaugural year of the program, many students started working later but will work until the end of the academic year in May.

Q: How are students graded on their internship?

A: Half of the students' grade is determined by mentor and coach evaluations. Internship logs kept by the students determine 25 percent of their grade. The other quarter of the student's grade is a final paper about the internship.

It is also our way to bring all of us closer to better understanding and appreciating the benefits of internships to a student's learning in addition to the Baltimore work force. During our implementation of the internship program, we consider everyone contributing to the process to be pioneers and we applaud all of you for taking time to help educate the youth of Baltimore in a different way. Albert Einstein once said, “insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.” We at ACCE have gone the opposite route and have taken a different approach to educating the student in an effort to produce stronger graduates who have a

genuine experience navigating the outside world prior to graduation. Every Wednesday we have over 70 students out learning and working in the real world throughout Baltimore. We at ACCE understand that though the student may learn skills in the classroom, it is the application of those skills that matter. We thank you all for helping us as we continue to refine and define how we truly educate our Baltimore youth.

Q: Why are the internships in the middle of the week?

A: The internship is in the middle of the week in order to have students working when their energy level is the highest. In addition, many of the worksites are busy during the middle of the week. That allows students to work on a day that the worksite is in high gear, providing students with the best experience possible.

Q: What do students work on while they are at their internship?

A: Students work on a variety of different tasks, depending on their internship placement. Most students learn basic skills about professional work and the responsibilities that accompany having a job. In addition to the site specific tasks, many students also work on more than one skill, including organization, administrative work, and working with others.

Q: What do the students do for lunch?

A: Students are responsible for

preparing their own lunch or purchasing their lunch while they are at the site.

Q: How do students get to and from their internship?

A: ACCE interns are also responsible for getting to and from the work site on their own. Most students either have a parent drop them off and pick them up, or take the bus to and from the internship site using the bus pass provided by the school system.

Q: How does the internship contribute to the students' education?

A: The internship gives students an opportunity to apply the skills learned in school, such as problem solving, creative thinking, organization, and working with others. The internship also provides students with site specific skills and work experience that they can use to further their career goals.

Student Profile: Interview with Shekyra Tunstall & Heber Brown

Shekyra Tunstall, an 11th grade ACCE student, has been working at the Maryland Mentoring Partnership in Baltimore since December 2006. The Maryland Mentoring Partnership (MMP) is a statewide organization that strives to create and sustain youth mentoring programs for a diverse population of young people.

In order to better understand Shekyra's internship experience, we sat down with her and her mentor Heber Brown, Manager of Government and Higher Education Partnerships at MMP. As an organization that is dedicated to mentoring youth, and who thinks others should be involved in mentoring, MMP was excited to work with ACCE students.

Although Shekyra has only been working at MMP for a few months, she explained that she already feels like part of the family. In fact, she said that one of the best things about her internship was working with her co-workers. Working with others is one of the primary skills the internship hopes to teach students, and both Shekyra and Mr. Brown recognized that Shekyra has done an excellent job of learning to work with others.

Shekyra works on a variety of tasks at MMP including administrative support, helping prepare for events and projects, administrative work, and organization. She has also been to Annapolis to see Governor O'Malley's inauguration and she has appeared on a talk radio station discussing her role at MMP.

Although Shekyra was not initially interested in learning about politics, her favorite experience thus far at MMP has been her trip to Annapolis. She was inspired to see the large number of people and organizations who were there trying to lobby for a variety of different programs.

Her trip to Annapolis is not the only new experience that Shekyra's internship has provided her with. She told us that everyone she works with is like a mentor and that "the internship is a very educational experience. Every week I learn something new." Other valuable skills that Shekyra has learned are organization and computer skills. She also said that the internship provides her with an outlet to practice the skills she learns in school. ACCE, she said, has helped her prepare for work, and the internship has helped her realize that.

In the few months that Shekyra has been at the Maryland Mentoring Partnership, she has already acquired many of the skills Mr. Brown explained he was hoping to teach her. Mr. Brown explained that Shekyra has become excellent at people skills, quickly learning how to inspire others about mentoring and motivate them to become involved.

She has also learned to be flexible and prepared for unexpected events. For example, Shekyra's appearance on the radio was unplanned, but Mr. Brown was very impressed with her performance. In fact, Mr. Brown said that he was so impressed with Shekyra's performance that MMP



Shown Above: Shekyra Tunstall and Heber Brown

will likely continue to work with ACCE students in the future. He explained that Shekyra has "opened the door for many other young people coming behind her".

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ACCE AIMS TO HELP
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The Academy for College and Career Exploration (ACCE) aims to help Baltimore high school youth develop a love of learning, a constructive direction for their lives and a belief in their own abilities to succeed by promoting academic success through the lens of the careers of the 21st Century. This career exposure intensifies with each year of high school. For 11th grade, ACCE offers students the opportunity to explore their career interest through the internship program.

ACCE's internship program is designed to help students build knowledge, understanding and skills in the context of authentic work. By making the learning process real, students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and become inspired life-long learners. They are encouraged to learn about a career and ultimately grow and develop through the experience.

For more information about the internship program, please contact:

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A Special Thanks

There are several individuals and organizations who have played an invaluable role in the internship program at ACCE. First, we owe a big thank you to all of the organizations that have provided internships to ACCE students. Without the help and support of these community organizations, our program would not be the success it is today.

We would especially like to thank the student's mentors at the internship sites. These individuals have taken the time and effort to provide guidance to ACCE students and teach them important skills they will use throughout their working life. We realize that mentors are taking on additional

responsibilities, and can't thank them enough for their devotion to helping the students expand the opportunities that are available to them in the future.

We are also very grateful to the dedicated teachers at ACCE who have been so supportive of the internship program. These teachers have graciously taken on additional coaching responsibilities for the student interns to guarantee that each student has the best experience possible. We deeply appreciate the dedication of these teachers to making sure their students are successful.

We would like to thank the ACCE leadership team, starting with

ACCE principal Ivor Mitchell and his administrators. In addition, we acknowledge the operators Karen Sitnick and Marion Pines, and their assistants Jacqueline Massey and Michael Schaeffer. All of these individuals have played a central role in planning, developing, and implementing the internship program. Without their help, we would not have the broad community support that we currently enjoy.

Finally, we thank the ACCE students who have been so cooperative and patient as we have developed the program. The students have kept an open mind and we appreciate their willingness to embrace this new experience!