

# *MINNESOTA TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION/SciTech* INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Annual Report: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

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**Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development**

**Employment and Training Programs/Office of Youth Development**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota Legislature (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2021/1/Session+Law/Chapter/10> ) appropriated $875,000 annually for State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 2022 and 2023 to the Minnesota Technology Association (MnTech) to connect college students in STEM majors (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) with paid internships in small to mid-sized Minnesota based companies (250 or fewer employees worldwide). The legislation directed the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to grant funds to MnTech to supporttheSciTech Internship Program in working towards increasing the participation of women and other underserved populations in STEM occupations.

The SFY 2023 allocation available to MnTech was $831,250 after DEED retained five percent of the appropriation for administrative purposes.

The SciTech Internship Program connects college STEM majors with valuable on-the-job learning opportunities in small Minnesota companies. Funding provided by the Minnesota legislature provides a fifty percent wage reimbursement of up to $2,500 that helps hiring companies boost their productivity and invest in their talent pipeline.

SciTech internships provide students with high quality opportunities to apply their classroom knowledge to real business challenges. These hands-on experiences equip students with the opportunity to develop their skillset, project portfolio and professional network.

### Students

Students must be a college student, at least 18 years of age, a Minnesota resident or a student in a Minnesota school, 2.5 or greater grade point average, halfway through a STEM degree, and eligible to work off-campus in the United States.

### Companies

An eligible participating company must be a small, for-profit company (fewer than 250 employees world-wide), with a physical presence in Minnesota, in a qualifying industry (noted below), and offering a paid STEM internship.

### Qualifying Industries

These are the qualifying industries for STEM internships:

* Biotechnology and Life Sciences
* Engineering Services
* Mining, Materials, Manufacturing, and Processing
* IT/Computer Technology
* Aerospace and Defense
* Agriculture. Food. and Forestry
* Fuels and Energy

## RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

SciTech conducts extensive outreach to Minnesota’s college STEM majors, with particular emphasis on women and students of color. In addition to attending dozens of career fairs, SciTech engages with on-campus student groups, prioritizing those that support students underrepresented in STEM fields. SciTech also partners with the North Star Alliance to host career development workshops to help students gain the confidence and skills they need to succeed in the job search process.

## 2023 STUDENT PLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### Number of Interns Placed

* 240 interns placed
* 59 percent of hires were students underrepresented in STEM occupations: women, nonbinary and students of color (12 percent increase from the last two years)
* 2,980 interns placed in 146 cities since 2012

### Completions

* 95 percent of students completed their internships
* 29 Interns were hired full-time
* Hiring wage averaged $20,47
* Return on Investment: For every dollar the state provides, private employers contributed $4.75 in wages paid to the interns

## 2023 STUDENT APPLICATIONS

### Number of Applications Received

* 1,564 students participated
* 52 percent were students underrepresented in STEM occupations: women, nonbinary, and students of color

## 2023 EMPLOYER APPLICANTS

### Number of Employers

* 290 employers participated
* 127 employers hired interns from across the state representing the qualifying industries

### Location of Applicant Employers

* Approximately 42 percent in suburbs
* Approximately 40 percent central cities
* Remainder Greater Minnesota

### Employer Applicants by Industry

* Approximately 22 percent in Engineering Services
* Approximately 20 percent in Biotechnology and Life Sciences
* Approximately 18 percent in Mining, Materials Manufacturing, and Processing
* Approximately 15 percent in IT/Computer Technology
* Remainder in Aerospace and Defense, Agriculture/Food/Forestry, Fuels and Energy

## IMPACT

* 98 percent of SciTech interns stayed in STEM for at least 2 years after graduation
* 76 percent of SciTech interns stayed in Minnesota for at least 2 years after graduation

## EMPLOYER COMMENTS

“This program is such a boost for our company as students bring good vibes to all other employees. A huge benefit from this is that we can use the extra funding we get from SciTech to pay for classes and other educational expenses for the student getting the internship.”--Erick Sipila, Owner of Sisu Solar

“We really appreciate the SciTech program! As a very small medical software company, it has let us take on several rounds of interns now, and many have joined us full-time and/or extended their internship through the school year.” –Angela Snyder, VP of Advanced Solutions, Atirix Medical Systems.

## 

## EXPENDITURES (January 1, 2023 -January 31, 2024)

Figures represent expenditures from January 1, 2023 through January 31,2024.

| Budget Category | Budget | Expenditures |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Administration | $32,400 | $32,400 |
| Participant Wages and Fringe Benefits | $581,490 | $571,064 |
| Direct Services Project Staff | $195,868 | $209,266 |
| Transportation/Travel | $3,423 | $1,514 |
| Contract/Consulting | $18,069 | $17,006 |
| Total | $831,250 | $831,250 |