



ON-RAMPS TO CAREERS

Engage a Student. Inspire a Career.

On-Ramps to Careers is a non-profit partnership that makes technology and engineering careers more attainable to underserved youth in the Nation's Capital. We are an alliance of business, education, government and community leaders who share the common goal of empowering all youth to contribute and prosper in the STEM economy. We provide employers with a reliable infrastructure to inspire students and shape a more diverse regional technology workforce.

During the past 10 years, On-Ramps to Careers has supported nearly 1,000 African American, Latinx, female and other underserved high school students in high quality internships with more than 40 IT and Engineering firms throughout DC. Nearly 90% all of our interns continue onto to college, with over 78% pursuing STEM programs of study.

On-Ramps works because we engage both interns and employers in systematic efforts to make sure that they have a high-quality internship experience. We prepare the students with a series of seminars. We hold resume writing workshops and mock interviews using our corporate partners to make sure the preparation is realistic and tuned to the professional workplace. We work with employers to help them design and execute a solid internship program. We engage our growing alumni network to provide near peer supervisors for a number of employers so that they can expand the number of interns they take. Our alumni also mentor younger students to improve their chances of success.

On-Ramps' services that transform students career trajectories include:

- Recruiting intern candidates from Career and Technical Education programs in the DC Public and Charter Schools and guiding those candidates through applications, interviews and success in their internships
- Preparation of the candidates for a successful internship through multiple workshops including employer-led resume building and mock interview sessions as well as On-Ramps' curriculum designed to prepare the candidates to meet the expectations of a professional workplace.
- Recruiting technology employers to generate up to 250 summer and 20 school year intern slots in IT and Engineering and related fields.
- Working with employers to generate high-quality internship programs that both expose students to the real world and help them grow in confidence.
- Matching intern candidates with employer intern slots and organize employer interview days.
- Reporting to schools and DC agencies about internship participation and completion.
- Supporting employers, schools/academies and interns during the internships to address any issues that might arise.
- Ensuring that each intern produces a culmination project report that addresses what they learned during the internship and how it impacted their view of a career in IT or Engineering.
- Reporting impact and the overall results of the effort and feedback from youth and employers.
- Engaging the interns to become part of our alumni network so that we can provide them with on-going support and engage them in support of the next cohort of interns.

Funding from foundations, corporate sponsors and the DC Department of Employment Services has helped support this work but we have operated at a much lower cost per student than our sister organizations. Our operational cost per high-quality STEM internship placement is approximately \$1,600 per student. We are seeking funding to allow us to continue and expand the internship program both in the summer and during the school year. We have grown 10-fold over the past 9 years, leveraging our success with employers to meet the needs of students and employers and need financial support to keep meeting demand.



202-768-9004



www.onrampstocareers.org



info@onrampstocareers.org