STEM Advantage

Mission: Mentor, prepare and inspire young women and underserved communities to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)

Program overview
Two years ago STEM Advantage launched our program at California State University, Dominguez Hills. The STEM Advantage program is comprised of a paid internship, mentor and scholarship. This 360 degree approach combines experiential, financial and directional support, and is designed to provide the support needed to keep promising scholars in a STEM program, including skills and work experience that will assist them in landing their first position after graduation, plus graduate with less student debt.

To date we have selected 18 STEM Advantage Scholars, who were junior- and senior-level undergraduate students earning a bachelor degree in computer science or computer technology. Plus we delivered Career and Personal Development workshops that were open to all students.

Student benefits
- Gain relevant and practical work experience through paid internships at leading companies
- Build technical skills
- Develop communication, problem solving, collaboration and critical thinking skills
- Receive a $5000 scholarship to graduate with less student debt
- Receive a one-on-one mentor to support both personal and professional growth
- Build confidence, knowledge and experience to help realize your dreams and potential!

Paid internships
Internships provide students hands on, real-world experience and an opportunity to develop both technical and soft skills
- STEM Advantage partners with local companies to provide paid internships in a variety of information technology disciplines
- Companies that have provided paid internships include Toyota, DIRECTV, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Cognizant and Farmers Insurance
- Internships are full-time in the summer. Depending on the company, students may be invited to continue their internship during the school year at 10-20 hours per week.

Mentorships
Participants are provided a mentor for the life of their time in the program. Mentors provide a vital role in the success of the students and program providing a role model of a successful IT professional and:
- providing personal support, guidance and coaching on the life skills that will help students stay in college and complete a bachelor degree in a STEM discipline
- exposing students to the lifelong benefits of higher education and a career in a STEM-related field
- be a comfortable ‘go to’ person for students to ask questions related to school, work and life

STEM Advantage also delivers Career and Personal Development workshops that are open to all students enrolled in a STEM program. Workshops include mentoring, interviewing skills, IT career panel and business etiquette.

Scholarships
STEM Advantage Scholars receive a $5000 scholarship to be used for any financial need the student may have. The scholarship is renewable as long as the student qualifies for the program.

www.stemadvantage.org
STEM Advantage

Application process

To Apply:
- You must be a citizen, national or legal permanent resident of the United States
- You must be currently enrolled Full-time in the BS of Computer Science or BA of Computer Technology program at CSUDH
- You must be a junior or senior in the Fall 2015 semester
- You must have and maintain a GPA of 3.0 in your major
- You must have and maintain an overall GPA of 2.5
- You MUST participate in the full time summer internship

Key Steps:
- Complete the application
- Complete two essays
- Submit a resume
- Provide two recommendations. One must be from a faculty member. The second must be from someone who knows you well, such as a work supervisor, coach, community leader or clergy
- Submit an unofficial college transcript
- Submit your application, essays, resume, recommendations and transcript to Dr. Beheshti by October 31, 2014

Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Visits</td>
<td>September 15 &amp; 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applications due</td>
<td>10/31/2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participant Selection (vetted by faculty)</td>
<td>11/14/2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participant interviews by STEM Advantage</td>
<td>11/30/2014</td>
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<td>Companies inform STEM Advantage of intern requirements</td>
<td>December - January</td>
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<tr>
<td>STEM Advantage sends resumes to companies</td>
<td>1/15/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internship Interviews scheduled*</td>
<td>1/27/2015 - 1/31/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Round interviews*</td>
<td>2/3/2015 - 2/7/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional interviews scheduled*</td>
<td>February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional intern selections*</td>
<td>February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participants announced*</td>
<td>March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pair mentors and mentees and hold kick off reception</td>
<td>April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Begin Internships</td>
<td>May or June 2015 (depends on company)</td>
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<td>Receive scholarship</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
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* Dates are subject to change as these are driven by the internship companies

Dr. Beheshti will send the application to all students enrolled in a computer science program. If you do not receive the application or have other questions, please ask Dr. Beheshti or send an email to info@stemadvantage.org