



## **Work-training programs beneficial for all parties**

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Kudos to Leslie Witty, vice president for outreach and communications at the South Central Workforce Development Board, and Michelle Dyer, vice president for human resources and organizational development at Service One Credit Union.

“A program that offers students the opportunity to work part time, get on-the-job experience and earn a \$1,500 college scholarship is reaching out to area businesses, and recently announced its first major partnership,” Aaron Mudd explains in Sunday’s Daily News. “For students doing the work, it’s also an opportunity to make connections and get the experience they can use to build a resume when hunting for jobs after graduation.”

As graduates complete their programs of study in higher numbers, it is imperative that colleges and universities take a more proactive approach to help them acquire jobs commensurate with their investment. Apprenticeship and internship programs represent a unique and mutually beneficial opportunity to empower students with the knowledge and skills they will need to successfully navigate the 21st-century world of work.

The benefits of these programs are well documented; they help students acquire a more realistic sense of the kinds of skills they will need in order to be successful in today’s fast-paced global economy. They also equip students with the appropriate attitudes and dispositions needed to be effective in business and industry today, and they help to instill within them the increasing importance and relevance of networking to sustained career viability.

Helping students find jobs related to their majors is financially advantageous to the students, the institutions, the companies that hire them, the lenders that financed their education and to society in general. No graduate should walk across the stage at commencement only to arrive at the unemployment (or the underemployment) line.

Thanks to the example being set by Witty and Dyer, I am confident fewer will.

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