**Insights**

The @high_hartford Academy of Engineering and Green Technology
Summmer 2019 Internship Program Newsletter

**Hello there!!**

Welcome to this first edition of **Insights**, a twice-monthly newsletter intended to keep you up to date on happenings within the program. By sharing stories and experiences, **Insights** aims to enhance the overall program for everyone -- employers, interns, supporters and friends alike!

**FEATURED INTERN: DIEGO FIGUEROA**

Diego Figueroa, who recently graduated from HPHS-AEGT and is interested in a career in mechanical engineering, is headed to Manchester Community College, fall 2019!

Right now, though, Diego is immersed in his 2019 AEGT internship with the CT Department of Transportation (CT DOT). In just a short time he has been exposed to resume writing, interview etiquette, and LinkedIn, and he’s working on document reformatting. Specifically, his efforts retooling the community directory will make it easier for CT DOT engineers and consultants to conduct community outreach.

Diego attends large staff meetings where topics of discussion include technology advancements to improve service area maps with a focus on low income, minority, and limited English proficiency communities. In the coming weeks,

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**THE EMPLOYER’S INSIGHT**

“Having Diego as an intern is a pleasure. He is working on a project to make our public outreach efforts much more efficient to the benefit of the Department and the communities we serve. Diego has translated documents that help us satisfy federal requirements for providing language assistance, and he has positively contributed to the overall energy of the office with his enthusiasm, motivation, and positive attitude.”

--- Tiffany R. Garcia
Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist, CT Department of Transportation Office of Contract Compliance

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**Insights from the Intern:**

“This opportunity has been an amazing experience, and I’m very excited to be able to visit some construction sites this summer with actual mechanical engineers and to have the chance to learn more about what they do and why they decided to pursue this career. I’m very interested in pursuing mechanical engineering. I believe that this internship opportunity aligns very well with my future career goals.”

--- Diego Figueroa

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*SPECIAL THANKS* to the Gawlicki Family Foundation for continued support of this important program. Thanks, too, to Hartford Public High School and all participating employers for supporting implementation of these internship experiences. Questions or comments? Contact us at info@ctedreform.org.

www.ctedreform.org
Hello again!!

After a well-received first edition, Insights is back with another AEGT intern experience. This particular intern is leveraging work-based learning not just to delve into career exploration but also to learn more about what her home town — Hartford! — has to offer!

FEATURED INTERNS: TAJAY VALENTINE

The iQuilt Partnership is a non-profit urban design effort (called The iQuilt Plan) that aims to connect and promote Hartford's downtown assets: museums, performance spaces, historic landmarks, etc.

It is also where HPHS AEGT rising junior Tajay Valentine is interning this summer!

Tajay's internship is exposing her to many facets of nonprofit work. She is involved in creating the marketing plan for “Winterfest Hartford,” including the promotion strategy for the free skating rink in Bushnell Park. She is also contributing to brochure and website content, fundraising efforts, and the early design phase of a citywide pedestrian wayfinding system.

There are some practical implications of Tajay's internship — she is being exposed to the great wealth of resources in her backyard! She now has her library card and her free resident pass to the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art. Also, she has visited UCONN Hartford, the Legislative Office Building, Christ Church, Upward Hartford, the Food Truck Festival, the MetroHartford Alliance, the Hartford Public Safety Complex, and many small, local businesses.

Insights from the Intern:

“This internship has been so helpful. I've learned a lot about my home city, and I've had so many different experiences. I love the work environment and the people I work with. I've made contributions that have been valued, like helping with ways to get information out to young adults and parents. I've gotten better with time management (I've never been good at that), I see my progress in everything I do, I work fast, and I'm staying focused. This is getting me ready for the work world.”

— Tajay Valentine

THE EMPLOYER'S INSIGHT

“Tajay has helped us look at things through a different lens. She is developing a strategy that will engage her peers to participate in fun events such as Winterfest.”

--- Jackie Mandyck
Managing Director
The iQuilt Partnership

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Insights

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Summer 2019 Internship Program Newsletter

While students benefit from the rich instruction provided by teachers at Hartford Public High School — and elsewhere throughout Connecticut! — there really is no substitute for experience. For this issue of Insights, you’ll see yet again just how much experience these internships provide.

What a great way to launch these students into their next phase of life!

FEATURED INTERN: KIATI CHANTAPHONE

Future accounting major Kiatying (Kiati) Chanthaphone will have a running start when her classes begin at Manchester Community College this fall, thanks to her internship at the Connecticut Public Affairs Network (CPAN)!

At CPAN, Kiati (HPHS Class of '19) has been working in the business office and learning how to create invoices, issue checks, process payroll, set up budgets, and reconcile bank accounts using QuickBooks.

Her work will even be used as part of CPAN’s annual audit! Elsewhere, she has contributed to quarterly state and federal tax filings, and she has joined in with marketing meetings, sales pitches and insurance benefit presentations.

Kiati’s exposure has also included visits to the Connecticut Network (CT-N) control room in the Legislative Office Building (where Connecticut’s state government network is produced). She has also visited Connecticut’s Old State House, where CPAN’s museum educators provide tours and instruction for visitors and students. Kiati has also enjoyed a State Capitol tour, a visit to the Capitol Press Room, and some time at the Museum of Natural and Other Curiosities.

Insights from the Intern: “This program is a real opportunity to learn and experience the workplace. I enjoy and appreciate working at the Connecticut Public Affairs Network very much. I have been able to observe how a professional workplace operates, and I have learned about accounting and CPAN’s projects at the Legislative Office Building and the Old State House. This internship has been beneficial for so many reasons and is something that every student should strive to do.”

—Kiatying Chanthaphone

THE EMPLOYER’S INSIGHT

“In addition to accounting projects, Kiati helps with projects at the Old State House and with compiling comprehensive benefit resources that will be customized for each office. Her enthusiasm and desire to develop her accounting and general business skills have been evident since her first day at CPAN.”

--- William Bevacqua
President, CPAN, Inc.

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