



Virginia Chamber of Commerce Work-Based Learning Spotlight

Company Name:

Highland Support Project

Please provide a brief overview about your company:

The Highland Support Project (HSP) is a committed network promoting sustainable education and development. Our mission centers around empowering changemakers working diligently to catalyze a transformative shift towards a sustainable culture. We achieve this by providing technical and material assistance fostering an environment encouraging innovation, progress, and sustainable practices.

Please provide a brief summary about your company's internship/apprenticeship/returnship program(s):

Our internship program offers college students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience working on sustainable development projects in Central America. Interns work alongside our team and community members to support various initiatives, including health education, agricultural training, and microenterprise development. We do not offer a returnship program.

What is something that is interesting or innovative about your internship/apprenticeship/returnship program that you would want colleges/high school students to know about?

One of the most unique aspects of our internship/apprenticeship/returnship programs is the immersive experience we offer. Participants get to work on tangible projects and learn about the culture and customs of the communities they work with. This cultural exchange helps broaden perspectives and fosters mutual understanding.

Our interns undertake meaningful assignments that align with their passions and contribute directly to our goal of sustainable enterprise development. We strive to provide our interns with opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive, helping them develop pathways for future success in social enterprise. We see our mission not as an internship program that uses students but as one that nurtures and cultivates their potential.

What kinds of work assignments are interns/apprentices responsible for at your company?

At Highland Support Project, we are committed to providing meaningful work assignments that align with our students' academic and professional learning experiences. Our interns and apprentices participate in diverse tasks, offering them a rich and varied learning experience. This includes participating in digital media production, conducting in-depth research, and organizing outreach events that connect our work with larger communities. They may also be involved in developing educational content for K-12 lesson plans, providing an invaluable resource for local educators. Additionally, they assist with data management and analysis, specifically related to public health and water surveys. These assignments contribute to our organization's mission and equip students with real-world skills they can take forward in their careers.

If another company wanted to start an internship/apprenticeship/returnship program, what words of advice would you share with them?

If another company wanted to start an internship/apprenticeship/returnship program, we would advise them to define their goals and objectives clearly. Establishing a good support system for participants and providing them with meaningful work assignments is also important.

Contact person (for those who want to reach out to you to talk about your program):

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