VIRGINIA
TALENT +
OPPORTUNITY
PARTNERSHIP

CREATING PATHWAYS TO PROFESSIONS

CCAM
SOLVING ADVANCED MANUFACTURING CHALLENGES

Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Work-Based Learning Spotlight

Company Name:

Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAM)

Please provide a brief overview about your company:

CCAM is a non-profit research organization focused on creating solutions to complex advanced manufacturing challenges. We are a public-private partnership and are the center of an academic, government, and industry ecosystem where partnerships create real economic value.

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

CCAM's Internship Program is focused on providing real-world practical applications of skills and knowledge gained in the classroom. Interns work on projects, interface with industry leaders, and gain both technical knowledge and transferable soft skills. CCAM's Internship Program, in collaboration with our Organizing University Members, has hosted over 150 Interns and Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs) since its inception in 2011. In the Summer of 2023, 50% of Interns were from underrepresented backgrounds and over the years, more than 30% of our Interns were from Virginia State University, a Historically Black College and University.

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?

Our internship program is focused on providing Interns and GRAs applied learning opportunities that enable them to quickly transition into the workforce. Members of the CCAM team invest time to support current interns and potential future intern candidates with career counseling advice, resume building support, and interview preparation.

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

Interns work on the same applied projects that our research engineers work on. They are assigned projects based on their experience and skillset, project requirements, and their

personal learning goals. CCAM provides internship opportunities for students with interest in many areas, including software development, computer science, manufacturing processes, data analysis, materials science, additive manufacturing, data science, and machine learning.

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

Be prepared for the intern on day one. The nature of an internship is that you have them for a limited time so you should be able to get them up to speed and successfully integrate within their team as quickly as possible. A successful program will provide Interns with the opportunity to utilize conceptual knowledge gained in the classroom and incorporate learning goals for the Interns.

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

Stephanie Wheeler | 304-703-3813 | stephanie.wheeler@ccam-va.com