

Corporate internships yield a win-win situation

Recently, you may have seen some young employees in the halls of Horizon BCBSNJ. These employees are interns from Christ the King Preparatory School, part of the Cristo Rey Network®.

What is the Cristo Rey Network?

The Cristo Rey Network is comprised of 24 high schools that provide quality, Catholic, college preparatory education to young urban people who live in communities with limited educational options. The core of a Cristo Rey model high school is the corporate internship or work-study program, which places students into salaried, entry-level positions that enable them to finance the majority of their education cost, gain job experience and enhance their self-confidence.

Corporate Internship Program

Lakia Haywood, Work/Life Specialist in Human Resources (HR) manages the Cristo Rey Corporate Internship Program. Horizon BCBSNJ is sponsoring 10 interns this school year: five in the Service Division and five in HR. They work one day a week, have a supervisor and a mentor, and must submit a monthly summary of their activities, experiences and learnings. The interns switch departments mid-year.

Myron Smith, an intern for the second year with Horizon BCBSNJ, said, *"The experience has taught me the value of being professional, punctual, attentive and proactive. I am extremely thankful to Horizon BCBSNJ and their investments in me."*

The internship program is a win-win situation for the interns and Horizon BCBSNJ. As a corporate sponsor, we create an opportunity for students to learn the world of business while receiving a quality education.

Donations Doubled!

Last year, our employees donated more than \$143,000 to 241 local nonprofit organizations and higher education institutions. Not only generous, but also smart, our employees maximized their charitable giving through the Matching Gifts Program, making the total amount, \$286,000. The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey matches dollar for dollar, starting at \$25, up to \$5,000 per donor in a calendar year.

Interns



Muhammad Ibn Mahdi
Supervisor - Eleanor McPhatter
Mentor - Antoine Johnson



Tashiyana Brown
Supervisor - Lakia Haywood
Mentor - Lorna Sears



Anthony Pescoran
Supervisor - Lakia Haywood
Mentor - Arlene Roldan



Myron Smith
Supervisor - Lakia Haywood
Mentor - R. Travell Summerville



Manuela Yeboah
Supervisor - LaTanya Garrett
Mentor - Rhonda Robinson



Justyn Cobbs
Supervisor - Dena Williams-Hall
Mentor - Taiwan Rich



Kahjsan MacDonald
Supervisor - Lakia Haywood
Mentor - Kevin Reed



Sephorah Pierre
Supervisors - Alma Solis and Sharon Layman
Mentor - Monique Hodge



Anthony Warner
Supervisor - Sebrina Thompson
Mentor - Marlon Addison