

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pittsylvania County Internship Program Expanding for 2022

After a successful first year in 2021, Pittsylvania County is partnering with several community organizations to expand the summer internship program in 2022. Thanks to funding from Pittsylvania County, GO Virginia Region 3, the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, and the Danville Regional Foundation, the *ExperienceWorks* initiative will provide approximately 30 students the opportunity to participate in a paid summer internship and allow an additional 115 students to engage in a variety of other interconnected work-based learning initiatives.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer this internship program for even more students this year," said Vic Ingram, Chairman of the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors. "This program provides valuable work-based learning experiences for our young people, who also provide value to Pittsylvania County and the departments and organizations that they work with."

The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the allocation of approximately \$75,800 toward Pittsylvania County's second summer internship program, which is a portion of the *ExperienceWorks* system that is being administered by the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR). This effort is also being run in partnership with Pittsylvania County Schools (PCS) and Pittsylvania County Community Action. In addition to the paid internships, the effort includes a career-focused local government camp and participation in IALR's AspHIRE mock interviews and work-readiness sessions. PCS educators will have an opportunity to participate in the EXCITE (Exploring Careers through Industry Teacher Externships) program, which helps educators connect classroom lessons with real-world applications through a week-long industry externship.

"IALR is committed to supporting a systems approach that starts in middle school to help PCS students connect to career opportunities and address industry needs to identify talent," stated Dr. Julie Brown, IALR's Director of Advanced Learning.

Work is already underway to identify internship placement opportunities and post those opportunities on MajorClarity, which is the online platform where positions will be advertised. The three-day, work-readiness bootcamp for interns is scheduled for June 7-9, 2022. Interns will receive up to a \$3,080 stipend based on an hourly rate of \$11 for up to 280 hours completed in June and July.

"The Youth Internship Program was a huge success last summer for the students who participated," said Dr. Mark Jones, Superintendent of Pittsylvania County Schools. "The work experiences provided to the students by each of the participating businesses were

invaluable in their development and tied their schoolwork to real-world work experiences. Pittsylvania County Schools looks forward to having more students able to participate in the program approved by the Board of Supervisors for this summer.”

Approximately 15 students participated in the County's 2021 summer internship program. These students were split between several County departments, including Public Relations, the Pet Center, Parks and Recreation, Pittsylvania County Public Schools, and a few local businesses.

“Early work experience is a great way for our youth to learn real-world work experience, foster positive communication skills, teach independence and responsibility, while keeping our youth productive and earning income,” said Everlena Ross, Executive Director of Pittsylvania County Community Action. “The Internship Program will offer the students the opportunity to connect with business leaders thus helping the youth to explore the many career opportunities they will be exposed to in the program. Pittsylvania County Community Action is excited and supportive of the Internship Program and the prospect of offering students of all background the opportunity to participate.”

To apply or for more information, students should contact their school counselor or log in to their MajorClarity account. Employers who are interested in hosting an intern should contact Dana Wilson at 434-766-6653 or dana.wilson@ialr.org.

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