P-TECH: The pathway from classroom to career to a stronger economy

P-TECH students collaborate with volunteers from local tech companies at our first annual Hackathon (May 23, 2014)

"Watching interns develop, even over a short time, was extremely rewarding…they brought perspectives to our work that we never would have thought of."

-Sudhir Gowda, Ph.D
IBM Research

Sudhir and his colleagues in systems research at IBM hosted a group of eight interns during summer 2014.

P-TECH is a new type of school that begins in the 9th grade and educates students through grade 14, with a high school diploma and an associate in applied sciences (AAS) degree from New York City College of Technology. The school is a collaboration of IBM, the NYC Department of Education and the City University of New York. Students at P-TECH move at their own pace through high school and college alongside a unique workplace learning sequence, which prepares students for careers in the technology industry. P-TECH students work as interns once they have completed their third year of high school, three years of workplace learning and at least one college course. Some interns have just started college, while others have already earned up to 50 credits.
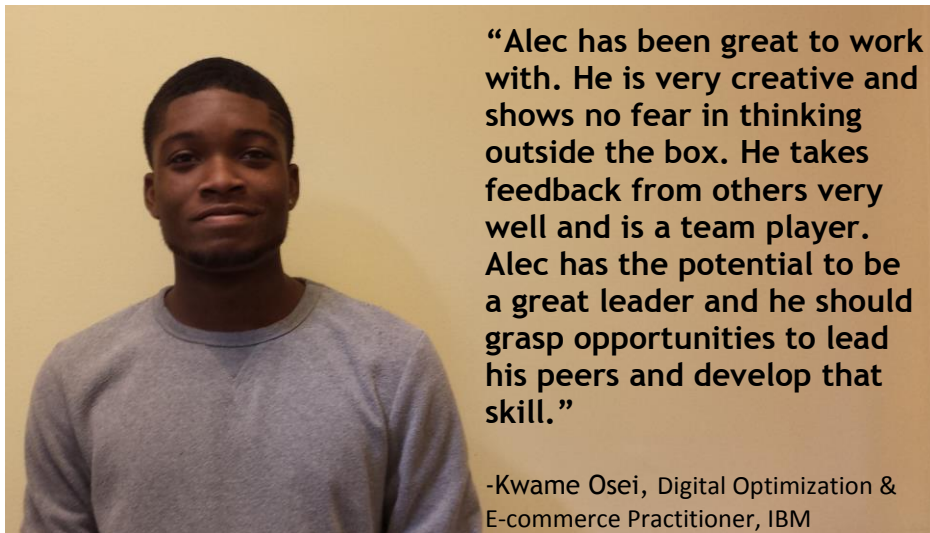
P-TECH internships are:
- 6-8 weeks, beginning late June and concluding mid-August
- Monday-Thursday, 9am- 5pm (max 32 hrs/wk)
- Skills-based and paid
- Based in New York City and accessible by public transportation

Who are the interns?
- Interns are working towards an AAS degree in Computer Information Systems or Electromechanical Engineering Technology
- Interns have completed three years of workplace learning courses, including Virtual Enterprise
- Interns are at least 16 years of age and have completed at least one college course

What is expected of P-TECH employers?
- Provide meaningful, paid work experiences that enable students to showcase their skills
- Provide supervision and mentorship for students
- Provide weekly feedback to school supervisor

"I was impressed by our intern's professionalism and work ethic. He changed my opinion of teenagers and reminded me that I was once a teenager too.

"Overall this is a great program, and really allows the students to understand the day-to-day operations of a program, organization, department and role. I hope they got as much out of it as we did."

-Dayvonne Smith
Digital Program Director,
Research Foundation of The
City University of New York

"Alec has been great to work with. He is very creative and shows no fear in thinking outside the box. He takes feedback from others very well and is a team player. Alec has the potential to be a great leader and he should grasp opportunities to lead his peers and develop that skill."

-Kwame Osei, Digital Optimization & E-commerce Practitioner, IBM

What supports will employers receive?
- Information on how to work with young people and assistance in designing projects
- Opportunity to provide dynamic young people with great promise a chance to build their skills and expand their outlook on life and the workplace
- Access to and a chance to shape a robust, growing talent pipeline

Are you interested in hosting P-TECH interns this summer?

Contact Will Ehrenfeld (wehrenfeld@ptechnyc.org) for more information or to sign up.

P·TECH

Pathways in Technology
Early College High School