

## HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT GRADUATING STUDENTS IN PHILADELPHIA

### Sponsor Community-Based Service Learning Projects

**A Service Learning Project** is an opportunity for students to engage in an organized activity with two goals: *to serve a school or local community and to gain real-world experience through investigating areas of interest.* By reflecting on their service activities and applying learned concepts, students will improve in a variety of critical skills including: research and investigation, public presentation, interpersonal interaction, group processing, problem-solving, and critical-thinking. Service learning projects should be aimed at high school students and include college and career exploration and a planning component. **(Duration: 10 hours min.)**

With a focus on social justice, advocacy or community improvement, students should consider and understand:

- What is the concern or challenge we're addressing?
- What is the history of the concern or challenge?
- Who or what is impacted by the concern or challenge?
- What is the strategy to address the concern or overcome the challenge?
- What is the action plan to implement the strategy?

### Sponsor Work-Based Experiences

Through career and employment awareness, exposure and immersion, students should learn how their passions and interests connect to careers, and how to improve their skills in preparation for employment opportunities. Consider:

- **Internships** - short-term experiences that allow students to gain hands-on, practical industry-specific experience that they can use in the future. **(Duration: 50 hours min.)**
  - Can be part/full-time, paid or unpaid.
  - May take place during summer or during the school year
- **Job Shadowing** - interactive, day-in-the-life experiences where students engage with professionals at your company. **(Duration: 4 hours to 1 week)**
- **Company Tours** - employers showcase their operation, providing first-hand observation and opportunities for students to gain insight into the industry through discussion and Q&A. **(Duration: 1 to 3 days)**
- **Student Professional Development** - opportunities for students to receive specialized training, formal education or advanced professional learning that will improve their knowledge of and effectiveness in specific industries or careers. **(Duration: 1 to 5 days, and should be continuous)**

### Facilitate Connections

If you cannot sponsor a service learning project or work-based experience, consider the following:

- **Hosting a Career Fair** - an opportunity for employers, training programs and businesses to offer viable information and/or hiring opportunities. **(Duration: 30 minutes to 5 hours)**
- **Hosting Guest Speakers** - individuals from specific industries to speak directly to students and increase awareness about their industry and job opportunities within. **(Duration: 30 minutes to 3 hours)**
- **Mentorship** - consistently over a period of time, provide encouragement, process solutions to challenges, offer guidance on obtaining employment, career maintenance and advancement advice. **(Duration: 1 day to 6 months, up-to a year)**