

Co-operative Internship Experience Program

Program Objectives

- i. Help young people who lack work experience to make a successful transition into the workforce;
- ii. Provide human resources, support, and other various skills to complete projects as defined by the host organizations; and
- iii. Expose youth to the operations, management, and principles of business – with emphasis on co-operative business and encourage the exploration of career opportunities in co-operative sectors.

Benefits to the Interns

- *Career Options* – The intern has access to new and interesting career opportunities available in the co-operative sector.
- *Awareness and Education* – The intern learns about co-operative values and principles and gains exposure to various types of co-op organizations.
- *Skill Enhancement* – This program develops professional skills that are crucial in today's job market and essential for making a difference in a community.
- *Network Development* – Interaction allows the intern to build a valuable network of potential future employers and colleagues involved in the co-operative industry.

Program Activities

i. Skill-based internships established within the co-operative and credit union sectors

Anticipated Results:

- The internships offer youth a chance to gain real world experience in the co-operative sector;
- Internships will present co-operatives as a viable career option for the intern, while enhancing their career skills for acquiring long term employment; and
- Participants will be able to recognize and apply the acquired transferable skills to new career opportunities.

Program Activities (continued)

ii. Life Skills Enhancement Series

Anticipated Results:

- Youth will acquire the knowledge and work experience that will allow them to compete in the competitive, knowledge-based economy and to make a successful transition into the labor force;
- Programs and resources will be made available to assist youth in life skills development and enhancement – reflective of their action plan; and
- The establishment of industry contacts and expanding the realm of participants' network.

Process:

Conduct innovative and creative life skills enhancement series focusing on:

1. Introduction to co-operatives and the co-operative business model
2. Self awareness, goal setting, & time management
3. Leadership & teamwork
4. Change and transition management
5. Communication
6. Conflict Resolution and decision making



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