



Northern Kane County
REGION 110
EDUCATION THAT WORKS

Career and Technical Education Quarterly Volume 9 Fall 2025

Giving Thanks – Celebrating Summer Internships 2026

A few years ago, Nancy Coleman, Executive Director of the Alignment Collaborative for Education, partnered with the Village of Bartlett to pilot a small summer internship program. Shortly thereafter, Northern Kane County Vocational Region 110 became a partner in this work. From that humble beginning, our summer internship program has grown exponentially into a regional model of success.

This growth would not have been possible without our community champions—the businesses and organizations that opened their doors to host interns, and our partnering school districts: Community Unit School District 300, Central Community Unit School District 301, St. Charles Community Unit School District 303, and School District U-46. Together, you made it possible for 243 students to gain real-world, hands-on experiences in Summer 2026.

These competitive internships are primarily awarded to rising high school seniors who have already completed coursework in their chosen career pathway. Students prepare professional resumes showcasing their coursework, extracurricular activities, and Career and Technical Student Organization involvement. Industry partners then review applicants, with many conducting Interviews before making final placements, providing students an authentic career preparation experience.

This summer's record-breaking internship cohort spanned numerous career clusters, including: [Automotive](#) - [Business & Marketing](#) - [Culinary Arts](#) - [Education](#) - [Engineering](#), [Manufacturing & STEAM](#) - [Emergency First Responders](#) - [Healthcare](#) - [Human Services](#) - [IT & Technology](#) - [Veterinary Science](#)



Giving Thanks – Celebrating Summer Internships 2026

Internship Highlights:

Automotive interns trained with:

Bob Loquercio Auto Group • KS Autocare • School District U-46 Transportation • Village of Bartlett • Westside Tractor

Business & Marketing placements included:

City of Elgin (Public Administration & Sustainability) • Downtown Neighborhood Association • Elgin Chamber of Commerce • Elgin Symphony Orchestra • Explore Elgin • Gather Pingree Grove • Gowns for Good • The Haight • Office of State Representative Anna Moeller • Rosati's Pizza (Marketing & Accounting) • School District 301 (Business Office & Communications) • School District U-46 (Facilities & Management) • Wintrust Bank



Culinary interns gained hands-on experience at:

Bartlett Hills Golf Course • Golden Corridor YMCA • Rosati's Pizza • School District 301 Food Services

Education placements spanned early childhood through special education, with students interning at:

Advanced Preschool • Bartlett Park District • City of Elgin • Hanover Township Youth Services •

Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative • Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association • Precious Angels • School Districts 300, 301 & U-46 • Streamwood Park District • Taylor YMCA • Two Rivers Head Start • Village of South Elgin



Engineering & Manufacturing interns worked with:

Advanced Compressor Technologies • Bucher Hydraulics • City of Elgin • Elgin Sweeper • Hampton, Lenzini & Renwick (Civil Engineering) • Hoffer Plastics • ITW Shakeproof • Judson University • Lakeview Precision • School District 300 • Service Concepts HVAC • Shales McNutt Construction • WT Group Engineering Consultants



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Healthcare opportunities included:

Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital (Pharmacy Technician) • Advocate Sherman Hospital (Pharmacy Technician, Medical Rotation, Medical Assisting) • Athletico Physical Therapy • Diamond Physical Therapy • Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative Physical Therapy • Ortho Illinois Physical Therapy

First Responders & Human Services internships provided 60+ hours of training and field experience with:

Bartlett Police Department • Elgin Fire Department • Elgin Police Department • Hanover Park Fire Department • Hanover Township Aging Services • Hanover Township Emergency Services



IT & Technology interns gained hands-on skills with:

Microsoft • Opiquad LLC • School Districts 300, 301 & U-46

Veterinary Science placements expanded this year to include:

Anderson Humane Vet Clinic • Pet Vet Animal Clinic • Tails Humane Animal Hospital



Invitation to Participate: Regional Summer Internship Program – Summer 2026

One of the most common conversations we have with business and industry partners centers on a critical question: How do we recruit, onboard, and retain strong hires who are prepared to grow with our organizations? Traditional job boards often lead to mixed results, with many initial hires not staying long-term.

With this challenge in mind, the Alignment Collaborative for Education and Northern Kane County Region 110 have partnered to create intentional solutions for building tomorrow's workforce today. One of our most impactful initiatives is the Regional Summer Internship Program, which offers select high school students the opportunity to explore meaningful careers while providing employers a chance to engage, mentor, and evaluate future talent.

Program Overview

The Regional Summer Internship Program is coordinated by:

Alignment Collaborative for Education

Nancy Coleman, Executive Director

Edgar Montes, Community Program Manager

Adriana Armstrong, Executive Assistant



Northern Kane County Region 110

Terry Stroh, Regional Director

Dr. Todd Stirn, Work-Based Learning Specialist



This collaboration includes representatives from Districts 300, 301, 303, and U-46, serving more than 23,000 high school students, with over 13,000 actively enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways.



Invitation to Participate: Regional Summer Internship Program – Summer 2026

Benefits for Students

Our internship program is designed to provide students with both access and opportunity by:

- Delivering hands-on, real-world experience in a chosen career field.
- Allowing students to earn high school elective credit.
- Offering paid opportunities, ensuring access for students who rely on summer wages.
- Providing options that range from 60-hour internships to full summer employment.
- Connecting students with pathways in Automotive, Business, Culinary, Education, Engineering, Manufacturing, Healthcare, Human Services, IT/Technology, Veterinary Assistant, and Welding.

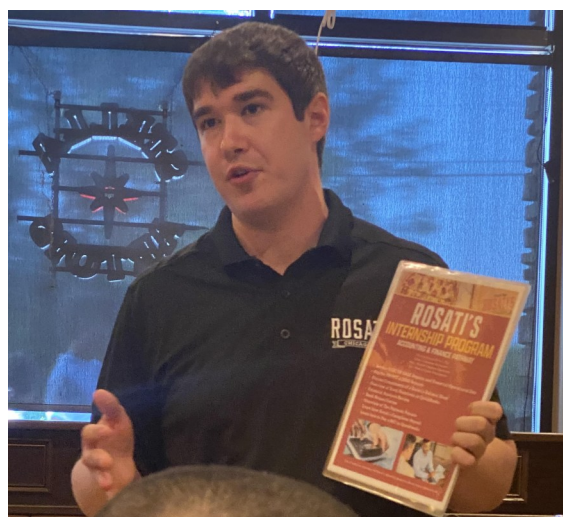


The program has proven highly competitive. For the most recent summer, we received **over 1,000 applications**, reviewed **850 resumes**, and placed **243 interns** with regional employers. **Selected students consistently demonstrate strong academic achievement, career focus, and workplace readiness.**

Benefits for Employers

Employers who host interns gain access to motivated, pre-screened candidates while receiving full support from Region 110 and the Alignment Collaborative. Together, we assist with:

- Position development (November–January).
- Candidate review (March).
- Intern selection through resume review and optional interviews (April).
- Internship hosting during June–July with flexible scheduling.



Internship Models & Compensation

- Standard Internship (60 hours): \$900 stipend funded by Alignment Collaborative.
- Certificate/Workshop Internship: \$500 stipend, with training fees fully covered.
- Employer-Paid Internship: Company hires interns directly-hours and wages vary.

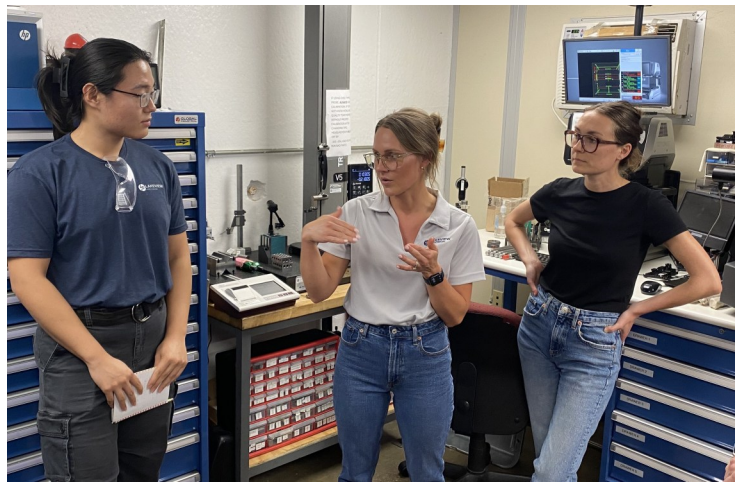
Invitation to Participate: Regional Summer Internship Program – Summer 2026

Expectations for Student Interns

Student interns receive preparation and coaching to ensure success. They are trained to meet workplace expectations in:

- Professional dress and communication.
- Punctuality and reliability.
- Confidentiality and safety protocols.
- Acting as responsible, contributing team members.

Throughout the internship, each student is supported by an internship coach who partners with the employer to address needs and ensure a positive experience.



Internship Timeline

- November–January: Employer position descriptions developed.
- March: Student applications open and close.
- April: Employers review resumes and conduct optional interviews.
- June–July: Internships hosted (typically 60 hours across three weeks, with flexibility).

Invitation to Participate

We invite your organization to join us in shaping the workforce of tomorrow. Hosting a student Intern provides meaningful career exposure for young people while strengthening the future talent pipeline for our region.

For **more information or to discuss** how an internship could align with your organization's needs, please contact:

- Dr. Todd Stirn – Work-Based Learning Specialist, Region 110 - t.stirn@central301.net
- Terry Stroh – Director, Region 110 - terry.stroh@central301.net
- Nancy Coleman – Executive Director, Alignment Collaborative for Education - colemanace@align4edu.org

Together, we can build a stronger, better-prepared workforce for the future while giving students a head start on their career journey.

Celebrating Manufacturing Month Student Tours – Thursday, October 16



October is Manufacturing Month in Illinois—a time dedicated to recognizing the vital role manufacturing plays in our state's economy and future workforce. Throughout the month, local manufacturers open their doors to high school students, educators, and parents, offering a behind-the-scenes look at modern manufacturing and the exciting career paths it offers.

Today's manufacturing careers are not the factory jobs of the past. They are high-tech, high-skill, and high-wage opportunities that offer long-term growth and advancement. As one of Illinois' largest and fastest-growing sectors, manufacturing is essential to both local prosperity and national competitiveness.

Manufacturing Month also provides an opportunity to address industry challenges—chief among them, the ongoing shortage of skilled workers. By hosting tours, companies gain valuable exposure to future talent while helping students envision a meaningful career path in this dynamic field. It's a win-win for education and industry.

[Mark Your Calendar: October 16, 2025](#)

On Thursday, October 16, Region 110 will host its fourth annual Manufacturing Month student tours. What began with just three participating companies has grown exponentially—last year, 21 companies welcomed approximately 550 students. This year, 24 companies will allow us to reach over 600 student participants.

[Students from District 300, District 301, District 303, and District U-46 will have the unique opportunity to tour local manufacturing facilities](#) and learn about the technologies, processes, and people that power this critical industry.

We are deeply grateful to these companies for opening their doors and investing in the future workforce.

Thank You to Our Partners

[Advanced Compressor Technology](#) - [AFC Materials](#) - [AJR Filtration](#) - [Bucher Hydraulics](#) - [Camcraft](#) - [Clarke Environmental](#) - [Custom Aluminum](#) - [Echo USA](#) - [Elgin Sweeper](#) - [Flender](#) - [General Kinematics](#) - [Genesis Automation](#) - [Harting Americas](#) - [Hoffer Plastics](#) - [ITW Shakeproof](#) - [Lakeview Precision Machining](#) - [Mazak](#) - [Middleby Marshall](#) - [McCormick FONA](#) - [Pactiv Evergreen](#) - [Richardson Electronics](#) - [Sauber Manufacturing](#) - [Swiss Automation](#) - [Wittenstein](#)

This event would not be possible without the collaboration and dedication of our community partners. We extend our sincere appreciation to:

- [Alignment Collaborative for Education](#)
- [School Districts 300, 301, 303, and U-46](#)
- [St. Charles Chamber of Commerce - Industrial Committee](#)
- [Greater Chicago Advanced Manufacturing Partnership \(GCAMP\)](#)
- [Elgin Chamber of Commerce](#)

Together, we are building stronger connections between education and industry, inspiring the next generation of manufacturers, engineers, and innovators.



Educators' Rising October 30, 2025



Did you know that Northern Kane Region 110 offers an education-focused career pathway? The **Elementary and Secondary Education Regional Pathway**, is **located at Hampshire High School** in District 300, and is available for participation by Central 301 students. Additionally, **Larkin High School offers an Early Childhood pathway** for aspiring education professionals. These education pathways align seamlessly with the goals of the Alignment Collaborative, particularly in its mission to cultivate and guide future educators from high school through university degree completion.

We are especially interested in beginning to promote career technical education as an educational pathway for students to consider.

In collaboration with school districts U-46, 300, 301 and 303, Alignment's Teacher Pipeline Team plays a vital role in identifying students who aspire to become teachers. We provide these students with essential support, including mentorship, opportunities for postsecondary visits, and specialized summer internships in the field of education.

We are thrilled to announce that we anticipate over 200 regional students participating in the Educators' Rising Mini Conference at Northern Illinois University on Thursday, October 30, 2025. The annual event offers valuable opportunities for aspiring educators to learn, connect, and grow in their pursuit of a teaching career.

Students Explore Careers in the Dentistry Profession



For students interested in a career in the dentistry field, the best place to be this summer was at Well Child Center. The 60-hour internship included visiting with dental professionals, shadowing their work, and spending time in Well Child Center's dental clinic. Interns also had the opportunity to visit dental programs at both Elgin Community College and the College of DuPage as possible starting points for their education in the dentistry field beyond high school.

"Full implementation of the 60-hour Project SMILE internship focused on careers in dental professions was nothing short of amazing," reported Michelle Zajac Esquivel, MPH, Executive Director, Well Child Center. "Every intern expressed enthusiasm for how much they learned and noted how much they enjoyed the observation and shadowing time in Well Child Center's dental clinic, as well as other local dental and oral surgery practices."

Students Explore Careers in the Dentistry Profession

While at Well Child Center, interns also learned more about public health and the contribution that clinics like Well Child Center contribute to the community's overall healthcare services. Interns focused on removing barriers to dental hygiene practices and encouraging healthy nutritional choices through communications and education to families. Interns even had the opportunity to deploy their marketing skills, creating social media posts and infographics directed to families in the community.

All nine students that completed the "Project Smile" internship gave it rave reviews. Haniya Malkani, a senior from Hampshire High School, described the internship as "a great learning experience where I got to connect with professionals, ask meaningful questions, and contribute to creative projects like social media posts and bulletin boards. It helped me grow my confidence and communication skills while working as part of a team."

In this internship, the Well Child Center team was committed to creating an experience for high school students that focused on both their professional and personal growth while also allowing students to exercise their creativity and communication skills. From this experience, students developed mentors in the healthcare profession as well as friendships with peers from multiple high schools in the region.



Thank you to the Well Child Center for providing this opportunity to students to pursue their career interests, learn more about their community, and to build solid career plans for the future.

Article by Riley Penar, Central High School and Emily O'Hearn, Larkin High School

First Responder Internship Expansion



Bartlett Police Department, Hanover Park Fire Department, and Hanover Township Emergency Management Services offered ten students a comprehensive exposure to First Responder professions. New this year, the Elgin Fire Department and Elgin Police Department hosted their own pilot program where an additional ten interns gained experience in emergency management, fire, and public safety.

First Responder Internship Expansion

On site at the seven fire stations in Elgin, along with Hanover Park's Station 15, interns worked alongside First Responder professionals learning fire-fighting procedures and emergency medical skills, while also earning their CPR and Stop the Bleed certifications. Bartlett and Elgin Police Departments focused on dispatch communications, search and seizure procedures, excessive force parameters and overall public safety while also partnering with Hanover Township Emergency Management Services.



The students described this internship as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that deepened their understanding of careers in public safety. An average student's summer does not typically consist of going to fire and police stations and spending their time with local heroes. Bernie Nevares, a firefighter and paramedic from Hanover Park encouraged the students to "push yourself as far as you can go". This valuable opportunity taught these twenty students how to cope with stressful situations, gain new perspectives, and get over the fear of asking questions. Students in the Elgin program visited with Elgin Police Chief Ana Lalley as she reflected on her 30 years of experience, encouraging students to understand the "why" of selecting this profession and staying true to that commitment.



Nathan Shanley, an incoming Junior at South Elgin High School stated, "It has been really unique. I received great exposure to the fire service industry, and it definitely made me reconsider my career options because this has been such a cool experience." Opportunities like this do not come often, so when a student is interested in becoming a First Responder they are highly encouraged to apply for this internship. The value and solidification in their career decisions are what the program encourages. The connections that are made with instructors and fellow interns is why this internship stands out.

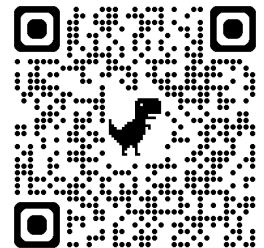
First Responder Internship Expansion

Furthering a student's education in the work environment is a main priority of Alignment. Students having fun while doing it is an added benefit! Thank you to the Bartlett Police Department, Elgin Fire and Police Departments, Hanover Park Fire Department, and Hanover Township Emergency Services for an opportunity of a lifetime.



The QR Code will take you to short video highlighting the First Responder Internship with Bartlett Police, Hanover Park Fire Department and Hanover Township Emergency Services.

Article by Riley Penar, Central High School and Emily O'Hearn, Larkin High School



Empowering Future Electricians: Dundee-Crown Students Attend NECA Conference



We extend our sincere thanks to Dundee-Crown Electrical Technology teacher Nicholas Linden and the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) for providing an incredible opportunity to our District 300 students. Thanks to their support, students in the Dundee-Crown Electrical Technology program were able to attend the highly anticipated NECA Annual Conference—a premier event that industry professionals look forward to each year.

This was a truly transformative experience for our students, whether they are firmly committed to a career in electrical technology or still exploring their future options. They had the unique chance to engage directly with industry leaders and witness firsthand the innovations shaping the future of electrical work.

The Electrical Technology pathway at Dundee-Crown includes Electricity 1 through 3. We are proud of the high-quality instruction Mr. Linden provides, and we are grateful for his commitment to preparing students for success in the electrical industry.

