



## Summer Job League

Perhaps the most direct way of interesting young people in transportation careers is to provide them temporary paid employment. This initiative would do that through a summer internship program aimed at young people between the ages of 16 and 24. Internships would pay slightly more than the minimum wage and last a minimum of six weeks.

To make this happen, a partnership of educators (K-12, community college, and university), industry, and workforce and transportation agencies would be required. The partnership would deal with several obstacles to the participation of young people in transportation careers:

1. Making them aware of the potential for careers in transportation.
2. Helping them to understand the steps needed to qualify for careers in transportation.
3. Helping them to become a part of the summer program.
4. Assisting in the development of some of the “soft” skills necessary for success in any job.

The partnership would also have to deal with many of the specific issues of the summer job program:

1. Define work experiences that would be meaningful and beneficial to both the intern and the employer.
2. Create outreach materials to reach potential interns.
3. Create orientation materials for the interns to help them become acquainted with their industry and job.
4. Create mentoring opportunities for the interns through the course of their internships. Mentors might be from the educational institution or the employer, depending upon the circumstance.
5. Create an evaluation tool to review the internship experience and ensure that the goals of the program are being met.

A successful program will provide young people a positive learning experience and lead to something more: a job, enrollment in a college program, or an apprenticeship. Follow-up steps need to be a part of the planning of the program.