

Greetings, Employer/Community Partner:

We are thrilled to share with you the various ways we can further develop our partnership to continue bringing College of the Desert students experiential learning opportunities where they can apply classroom theory into a real work environment. The information below will assist you in learning more about our Work Experience Program and other services/resources we provide to students, as well as planning for future semesters.

Free Access to Student Job Board:

- We invite you to create your free employer profile via [Handshake](#). Once approved, you will have the ability to post any job, including internships and volunteer opportunities.
- Handshake is partnered with schools and employers from across the country. 100% of the Fortune 500 plus thousands of small and local businesses recruit on Handshake.

Thinking About Creating an Internship Pipeline?

- Visit our [Work Experience Employer Information](#) webpage for a step-by-step guide in planning and establishing an internship pipeline. There you will find upcoming semester dates, a copy of the [Internship Programs Under The Fair Labor Standards Act Fact Sheet](#), and information on how students can earn college credit while working or interning with your agency.
- We highly encourage paid internships to promote equity and access given the socioeconomic demographics of our student population. However, we also understand agency needs and fiscal budgets as well as the value of unpaid internships. Should you offer an unpaid internship, the student **must** enroll in a Work Experience course within the semester dates listed. A copy of College of the Desert's liability protection certificate for unpaid internships is available upon request.

Opportunities for Your Existing (and future) Employees:

- Did you know your current or future employees can earn college credit while working for you? Employers who participate in the Work Experience Program are more likely to have employees who are vested into the agency when they feel their education and professional growth is supported.
- You asked, we listened! We have officially launched a series of short-term [21st-century New World of Work Employability Skills Courses](#) in both [credit and non-credit](#) format! These short-term courses are designed to help close the skill gap in the workforce. Courses are currently being offered completely online to meet the demands of a busy employee/student and are highly suggested for new and experienced workers.
 - Credit Employability Skills courses are credit bearing, may be covered under financial aid if applicable to the student, and grade earned is reflected on the student's overall Grade Point Average (GPA).
 - Non-credit Employability Skills courses are not credit bearing and are FREE! Students will receive a [Certificate of Completion](#) upon successfully completing the "A" and "B" course series.
 - Coming soon, College of the Desert will issue digital badges to students who successfully complete Employability Skills courses and/or participate in a Work Experience course. Digital badges are micro credentials that can be showcased in a resume and/or LinkedIn profile. Stay tuned for more information!
 - For questions on how to include Employability Skills courses as part of your agency's professional and training development, please contact me at: anahernandez@collegeofthedesert.edu

Staying Connected with the Career and Workforce Solutions Center:

- The Work Experience Program works closely with the [Career and Workforce Solutions Center](#), which provides an array of support services and resources to students to maximize their career development.
- We invite you to consider being a part of our [Career Connections@COD](#) series! Career Connections@COD is designed to bring employers and students together virtually. Employers can share information about their organization, announce current job openings, meet College of the Desert students, and identify potential candidates.
- For more information about ways to engage with College of the Desert students, please contact the Career and Workforce Solutions Center at (760) 674-7799 or by email at cwsc@collegeofthedesert.edu

Become an Advisory Committee Member:

- Advisory committees actively meet on a semester or once-per-year basis to establish and maintain excellent business partnerships, provide feedback on appropriate industry curriculum, validate local area job markets, improve job readiness, and discuss industry trends.
- Other participation activities include:
 - Providing tours of your facility
 - Being a guest speaker through a Career Center Panel event
 - Provide job shadow and/or internship opportunities to students
 - Donate equipment and/or supplies
 - Provide students scholarships/grants through [College of the Desert's Foundation Scholarship/Program Funds](#)
 - Participate in Career and Job Fairs

We hope you have found this information helpful and we look forward to hearing from you on an ongoing basis to continue strengthening our local workforce.

In Partnership,

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