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County Judge, Mayor call on employers to offer experiential learning opportunities

Bexar County and the City of San Antonio announced today they will support the industry-driven SA Works initiative by extending internship opportunities to high school students. County Judge Nelson Wolff and Mayor Ivy Taylor also met with more than 70 public sector and community organizations and called on them to create internship programs to engage young adults before they enter college.

“All of the economic development efforts we make to lure businesses to our region and grow our local industries won’t make a difference if we don’t have the talent pipeline to fill the jobs being created,” Judge Wolff said. “SA Works is a concerted effort to align business, education and workforce needs so we can pair students with career paths early in their educations and keep the talent in Bexar County.”

Earlier this week Commissioners Court approved a pilot summer internship program to provide experiential learning opportunities for high school students across seven County departments. A total of at least 16 part-time internships will be offered in Commissioners Court, Emergency Management, Facilities Management, Bexar Heritage and Parks, Information Technology, Judicial Services, Public Works and the Public Information Office.

The goal of the program is to provide high school students an opportunity to explore career paths in government and public administration, while avoiding future “brain drain” by creating a brighter future for young residents in the county. This program supports SA Works’ goal of creating 20,000 experiential learning opportunities for students by 2020.

The internship descriptions will be posted to the Bexar County HR and SA Works websites by March 31; interviews and intern selection will occur in May and the selected students will begin work on June 6.

“Internships are an important component of the pathway that leads our students from education and training to employment,” said Mayor Taylor. “I’m proud that the City of San Antonio has such an effective internship program and pleased to be working in such close partnership with Judge Wolff and Bexar County to provide even more opportunities for our young people.”