

IGNITE INTERNSHIPS IMPACT REPORT

Through a cradle-to-career approach, United Way of Southwest Virginia is addressing the challenges facing tomorrow's workforce. United Way has aligned local support and investment from schools, businesses and government officials to invest in Southwest Virginia's youth – tomorrow's workforce. The Ignite program is bridging the gap and connecting schools and students in 19 different counties with employers and employees by providing internships to Southwest Virginia's youth. Students get a minimum of a four-week summer internship of 80+ hours spent on site and 2 hours of pre-employment training designed to develop workplace skills and competencies.



2019 through 2022 *internships included:*

79
*companies
participated*



\$166,178
*invested by
employers*



156
*interns
participated*



16,780
*hours worked
by interns*



46%
*of interns'
first job*



10,235
*Mentor
hours*



\$286,740
*Total mentor
investment*



“Thank you United Way for helping us find talented interns and help area youth discover opportunities in their back yards.”

-Mentor

“The internship gave me soft skills that are useful in all aspects of life, and I gained knowledge that I can use in many different career fields.”

-Intern

Conclusion

The return on this investment is creating a talent pipeline that prepares the next generation for the jobs of tomorrow, supplying local employers with the skilled workers needed to build a robust competitive economy.

