

Educators 4 Education collaborates with CVS Health to Prepare Philadelphia Youth for the Workforce

Educators 4 Education (E4E), in association with CVS Health®, continues to expand career exploration opportunities for Philadelphia youth through the Career-to-Learn (C2L) Internship Program. The program introduces high school students to careers in health care and retail while helping them develop the workplace skills needed for future success.

CVS Health worked alongside with Educators 4 Education because both organizations share a commitment to preparing young people for meaningful careers. Through this collaboration, students are introduced to health care career pathways they may not have otherwise considered while gaining valuable practical work experience in a professional setting.

The internship provides students with opportunities to explore health care and retail careers through workplace readiness training, career exploration activities, interactive discussions with CVS Health colleagues, and exposure to pharmacy, retail, and other health care operations. Participants also engage in job-shadowing experiences, mock customer service scenarios, and professional development workshops that prepare them for future employment.

This collaboration also aligns with CVS Health's commitment to community engagement and expanding workforce opportunity. By investing in local youth and exposing students from a wide range of backgrounds to healthcare careers, the program helps create opportunities for the next generation of professionals while strengthening the communities CVS Health serves.

According to Shavon Mason, Senior Analyst at CVS Health, "The collaboration helps CVS invest directly in local communities while

creating opportunities for young people with varied experiences. By exposing students to health care and retail careers early, we hope to build a future workforce that reflects the communities we serve."

Throughout the internship, participants strengthen essential workplace skills including communication, teamwork, professionalism, accountability, problem-solving, time management, and customer service. These transferable skills prepare students for success in future internships, college, and careers.

One participant, 16 year old Spencer S., described the internship as a meaningful introduction to the professional workforce.

"The C2L internship with CVS is my introduction to the workforce and it helped me realize new opportunities I could pursue in the future," Sargent shared. "It showed me what I could do to benefit myself for the next years."

The student said one of the most meaningful moments came during the second day of the internship.

"I realized how comfortable I felt being around my coworkers. They made me feel like I was included every time."

The supportive work environment helped the student develop confidence while learning new responsibilities and working alongside colleagues, eventually culminating in a permanent position at CVS.

"I feel excited about the permanent position, but I know I still need to improve for the upcoming future," Sargent said. "I feel like my role at CVS does allow me to give back to my local community."

When asked what advice they would give future participants, the



student's message was simple: "Be prepared and ready."

CVS Health believes E4E's Career-to-Learn Internship Program serves as a bridge to future internships, employment opportunities, and careers in healthcare and retail. By providing students with early exposure to these industries, the program helps young people discover new interests, build confidence, and develop skills that will benefit them throughout their careers.

As a result of his internship experience, Sargent was offered a part-time shift supervisor position at CVS, the same site where he completed his summer placement. This opportunity reflects the impact of his hard work, professionalism, and commitment throughout the internship.

For more information about Educators 4 Education's workforce development programs, visit www.educators4education.org.