



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mardi Humphreys  
Communication and Membership Manager  
(770) 301-9527  
mhumphreys@technologyfirst.com

Natasha Sandella  
Marketing and Customer Relations Manager  
(937) 258-8890  
[natasha.sandella@socche.org](mailto:natasha.sandella@socche.org)

### **Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE) selected by Ohio as Lead for High School Tech Internship Intermediary and Industry Sector Partnership** *Local Non-Profit Receives Grant Funding to Build High Tech Workforce*

**Dayton, OH:** (02/08/2023) The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) recently chose several internship intermediaries from across the state, and the Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE) is their selected partner for the Dayton region.

SOCHE is a well-known leader for strong intern programming. In collaboration with the ODE, SOCHE will help high school students pursue careers in Information Technology and Technology fields by facilitating internships in regional businesses. Through *The High School Tech Internship Intermediary Program*, SOCHE will pay **100%** of students' salaries who work more than 200 hours with a company. Matches between students and companies are already underway.

"SOCHE is extremely excited to partner with the Ohio Department of Education as they lean forward with innovative solutions for high school students across Ohio," said SOCHE President Cassie Barlow, PhD. "Our students need to have exposure to the many great occupational opportunities that are available in our region."

In addition, SOCHE is partnering with Technology First to launch the first *Industry Sector Partnership in Information Technology*. Through this grant SOCHE and Technology First will work with regional partners to increase Tech Prep and IMAP applications, disseminate K-12 curriculum for IT, and increase IT work-based learning.

Technology First's Executive Director, Melissa Cutcher, said, "Technology First is looking forward to working with SOCHE, our Technology First community, and our regional coalition to build the standard for the development and preparation of the next generation of Information Technology workforce."



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According to recent publications, Ohio has over 400,000 Information Technologists employed throughout the state. The need for IT workforce is expected to grow at least 20% over the next 10 years with salaries ranging from \$50,000 to over \$150,000 annually. Based on these projections, the ODE is piloting *The High School Tech Internship Intermediary Program*. If successful, it may be implemented across the state.

SOCHE will work closely with Technology First, Dayton Regional Manufacturers Association, Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association, Dayton Area Logistics Association, and other trade associations to spread awareness so as many employers as possible can take advantage of this unprecedented opportunity. This initiative covers the entire range of information technology occupations. It gives students an excellent overview of what IT professionals can accomplish within their companies, and it gives employers an additional talent pipeline.

The Dayton region has a strong history of embracing internships and is known across the country for our high percentage of paid internship opportunities. Hundreds of employers across the Miami Valley have taken advantage of SOCHE's internship programming and found it highly effective in building their workforce. Interested businesses can contact SOCHE directly through [soche@soche.org](mailto:soche@soche.org).

SOCHE works closely with school districts across Southwest Ohio to recruit students for internships. Interested high school juniors and seniors can apply at [www.soche.org/apply](http://www.soche.org/apply).



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### **About SOCHE:**

SOCHE annually collaborates with 22 colleges and universities, K12 districts, and industries to transform the economy through education and employment. For over 40 years, the SOCHEIntern program has matched students with businesses across the Dayton region to build the next generation of workforce. Many former SOCHEInterns are now leaders within their companies. Learn more about SOCHEIntern at [www.soche.org](http://www.soche.org).

### **About Technology First:**

Technology First is a trade association serving to shape the future of IT by connecting, strengthening, and championing the best-connected Information Technology community in the Dayton region. Learn more at [technologyfirst.org](http://technologyfirst.org). #UniteDaytonTech

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