

Help More Students Build the Experience Employers Look For

What changed

A degree still matters, but it may no longer be enough by itself to help a student stand out. Nearly 90% of employers say they look for evidence of a student's ability to solve problems when reviewing resumes.¹

Why it's urgent

Internships remain one of the strongest Experience pathways. Yet while about 70% of first-year students plan to complete one, fewer than half find and complete an internship.² AI can help polish a resume. AI cannot create the experience behind it.

Why sponsors should care

Communities cannot rely primarily on attracting talent. They must become better at developing talent from within.

Your role

Sponsorship helps lower participation barriers and strengthens the tools, infrastructure, and access pathways that support students.

Supporting Sponsor \$1,000 per year

Local businesses, alumni, small nonprofits, and community supporters.

Lead Sponsor \$3,000 per year

Employers, foundations, community partners, and organizations with talent-development interests.

Talent Development Partner \$10,000 per year

Organizations supporting the annual technology and community-infrastructure cost.

- Sponsors are not buying access to students. No student data is shared as a sponsorship benefit, sponsorship does not purchase recruiting access or influence hiring decisions, and students are never required to engage with sponsors.

How GradPlanHQ helps

GradPlanHQ is one practical response: a professional-development community where students build Experience, complete meaningful projects, and turn their work into Proof employers can find. Students practice inside the Practice Field: the Growth Cycle, Action & Momentum Meetups, the Community App, and Project Launchers.

Full system: Developing Talent From Within: Field Guide for Community Leaders. Full levels and safeguards: the Sponsors & Foundations Brief.

Next step: start a sponsor conversation

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Create experience. Build your brand. Launch your future.

1. NACE, Job Outlook 2025 (Nov. 2024), employer survey on resume attributes.

2. Strada Education Foundation, Building Better Internships (May 2024).