

PRESS RELEASE

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**St. Louis Public Schools invests in STL Youth Jobs to create internships for 600 high school seniors**

**St. Louis, Mo** – St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) and STL Youth Jobs (STLYJ) are launching the Learn & Earn Internship Program, a newly created program that will provide SLPS seniors with a spring internship during their last semester of high school. SLPS will be investing around \$1.5m in STL Youth Jobs to provide around 600 SLPS seniors with paid internships.

The goals of the Learn and Earn Program are to increase access to job opportunities that SLPS students have access to prior to high school graduation. STLYJ will work with students to build transferable job skills, earn a paycheck, explore careers and prepare for long-term employment and their post-high school education plan. “We are reimagining the high school experience with the Learn and Earn program,” said Dr. Kelvin Adams, Superintendent of SLPS. “The program will create meaningful and flexible job opportunities so that our seniors are graduating with both a diploma and a resume in hand.”

“This is a perfect formula for fostering an educated future workforce,” said Hillary Frey, Executive Director of STL Youth Jobs. “We are aiming to develop stability, self-sufficiency and confidence in our youth to ensure that they secure meaningful employment and earn a living wage.

For interviews with students and businesses who are participating in the program, please contact Hillary Frey ([Hillary@stlyouthjobs.org](mailto:Hillary@stlyouthjobs.org)).

**ABOUT STL YOUTH JOBS**

STL Youth Jobs envisions a city where our youth have the opportunity they need to succeed, and our businesses have the workforce they need to compete. STL Youth Jobs’ mission is to bridge the divide between our region’s youth and the growing skills gap in our workforce. This is accomplished by training St. Louis youth to be ready for the jobs of tomorrow through an individualized career assessment, financial literacy and job readiness trainings, employment experience and continuing career support and mentorship. STL Youth Jobs is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Learn more at [stlyouthjobs.org](http://stlyouthjobs.org) or follow on social media @stlyouthjobs.

In addition to the Learn & Earn Internship Program, [applications for paid job opportunities are currently open for city residents, ages 16-24.](#) STL Youth Jobs is also seeking businesses and organizations who are interested in hiring and mentoring youth this summer. Employers can sign-up [here](#).

STL Youth Jobs is successful because of private and public funding. It costs about \$2,600 to fund one youth employee’s job, including wages and additional support services. To help fund a youth job or to learn more about the program, visit [STLYouthJobs](http://STLYouthJobs) online.

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