ESKENAZI HEALTH

INITIATIVE FOR EMPOWERMENT AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE



The Initiative for Empowerment and Economic Independence (IEEI) empowers Indiana college students with physical disabilities to find gainful, sustainable and equitable employment by engaging qualified students in comprehensive and diverse internship opportunities that build skills, confidence and work history to maximize competitiveness in the workforce. Students participating in the internship program are provided a barrier-free opportunity to build skills in their areas of interest, enhance their resumes with practical work experience and increase their overall confidence levels in the workplace.

"For the first time, I have been able to use my talent in many ways to discover myself and impact the people around me." – Summer 2018 IEEI intern

Created in 2013 as a partnership between Eskenazi Health and Ball State University, IEEI has broadened to include additional postsecondary institutions and employers. As of August 2018, 67 internships have been provided to students from 13 colleges and universities. While Eskenazi Health has hosted the majority of students, other businesses such as Eli Lilly and Company, Hirons, and Old National Bank have also hosted interns. The goal of IEEI is to assist students in being better prepared for full-time employment after graduation.

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IEEI offers eight-week internships in the summer, fall and spring. These are paid, full-time internships in fields related to the student's major, with housing and transportation assistance offered when needed. Interns are matched with programs/departments that align with their academic pursuits, interests and/or career goals. Previous interns have worked in diverse areas such as:

- Rehabilitation services
- Public affairs
- Information technology
- Grants
- Social work
- Multicultural affairs
- Billing

- Business operations
- Audiology
- Clinical education
- Biomedical engineering
- Human resources
- Public health
- Transgender health

Qualifications to participate in IEEI

- Current college student (or graduate within the last year) at an Indiana postsecondary institution or an Indiana high school graduate attending college at an institution out of state
- Have a physical disability (mobility, orthopaedic, visual or hearing)
- A competitive grade point average
- An updated resume and cover letter
- Three letters of reference from faculty members, supervisors or a person who can speak about the candidate's work ethic and attitude

"Three months ago, I looked at the future with unease and measured anxiety. Now, I look to the future with optimism and measured confidence." – Spring 2018 IEEI intern

For more information about IEEI or to apply for an internship, please contact Bart Upah, IEEI program manager, at bartholomew.upah@eskenazihealth.edu or Larry Markle, IEEI program director, at larry.markle@eskenazihealth.edu.

