Program Spotlight: Kansas Micro-Internships Program

Helping Kansas employers find talent—and students find reasons to stay

Program Overview

Since 2021, the Kansas Micro-Internships Program has provided paid, professional experiences for Kansas public college students to work with Kansas-based employers. The program **aligns with the Kansas Board of Regents strategic plan** to create economic success for Kansas residents and businesses.

Goals

The program focuses on **building awareness of career opportunities** across the state, **support local businesses**, and **combat brain drain.**

Key Results

(as of October 2026)

>$338K
earned by Kansas students doing work for Kansas employers (and counting)

99.4%
students who found MIcro-Internship to be valuable

>340
participating Kansas-based employers and entrepreneurs

98.3%
employers satisfied with the final deliverable

Impact

Kansas Students

- **Expanded awareness of local career possibilities:** Nearly half of students (47%) becoming aware of an organization they hadn't previously known or confirmed interest in a field or industry.
- **Built tangible career readiness skills:** Two-thirds gained resume-able experience demonstrating existing skills and 63% gained new skills.

Kansas-Based Employers

- **Access to high-quality, project-ready talent:** Employers reported exceptionally strong performance, across areas such as professionalism, role-specific skills, and problem solving.
- **Flexible support for immediate business needs**: Kansas organizations could complete meaningful projects without administrative burden.
- **A low-risk pathway to future talent:** Many employers said they would consider the Micro-Intern for future projects or hire them if capacity allowed.

"Parker Dewey's team has deep expertise in supporting students, companies and postsecondary education with a **focus on impact and results** which has allowed our program to continue to grow.
They make my job easier."

~Tim Peterson, Ph.D.
Senior Project Director, Kansas Board of Regents

Lessons Learned

- **Short projects can become a talent pipeline,** creating an effective way for Kansas businesses and students to discover one another.
- **Micro-Internships are a great resource for smaller organizations**, particularly those who do not have the budget or capacity for a longer-term hire.
- **Direct exposure to local employers** help students see career opportunities available near their school.