Program Spotlight: SwatWorks

Optimize professional development and alumni engagement during school breaks

Program Overview

SwatWorks creates **paid professional opportunities during winter break** through projects hosted by Swarthmore alumni, parents, and friends. **Parker Dewey provides turnkey administration, from project intake and payroll to outcome reporting.**

Goals

- Expand access to winter break professional experiences
- Build skills and career readiness
- Deepen student connections with alumni and friends of Swarthmore

Key Results

(as of June 2026)

358
unique students hired

100%
students who found Micro-Internship to be valuable

294
participating alumni/ friends

98.7%
employers satisfied with their Micro-Internship experience

Impact

Swarthmore Students

- Reported an overall increase in skills or confidence in all NACE Professional Competencies.
- Expanded their professional network and increased awareness of companies and fields of interest.

Swarthmore Alumni, Parents & Friends

- Repeatedly engaged many past Swarthmore alumni to support current students.
- Helped Swarthmore to expand its mentor and alumni engagement options that includes recent alums.

Swarthmore College

- Scaled opportunities for hundreds of students across all academic programs and class years, particularly underclassmen (51% of participants).
- Developed a repeatable program with minimum administrative burden through Parker Dewey's management of logistics and reporting.

"Through this partnership, **hundreds of Swarthmore students have had opportunities to learn and grow professionally** - that would not have happened without the amazing work of the folks at Parker Dewey."

~Kristie Beucler, Associate Director of Career Services
Swarthmore College

Lessons Learned

- **Scheduling program to take place during school breaks** is an effective way to boost engagement for all participants.
- **Promoting the program heavily to underclassmen** can deliver meaningful professional development for students at all stages of their academic journey.
- **Alumni are highly willing to engage** when program requires minimal time and mutual benefit.