



Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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20by20 CHALLENGE Update

Sixth Year Report on Progress of Creating 20,000 Internships by 2020

DAYTON, Ohio (April 10, 2018) – Six years ago, the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE) launched the **20 by 20 CHALLENGE**, an initiative to increase the number of internships in the region to 20,000 by the year 2020. In honor of today being *Ohio Internship and Co-op Appreciation Day*, SOCHE is pleased to share the news that the number of internships has increased from 11,066 to 16,187, representing a total gain of 46 percent since the launch, and an annual growth rate of eight percent. See the progress at:

<http://www.20by20challenge.com/progress.html>

SOCHE's member colleges and universities, representing nearly 200,000 students, provided the data to SOCHE for this initiative. "We're proud of the gains made locally and hope local employers and colleges and universities are equally proud of their progress," said Sean Creighton, president of SOCHE. "As we go into our seventh year of the 20by20 CHALLENGE, we will need to continue to strengthen and evolve the partnership between the private sector and higher education to reach our goal of 20,000 by 2020," Creighton added.

SOCHE's own internship program employed hundreds of students in research positions to support Wright Patterson Air Force Base, the City of Dayton and Montgomery County, as well as numerous small and mid-sized companies. While most internships focused on the STEM fields, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, SOCHE and its members are expanding internship opportunities for students studying business, social sciences, and the humanities.

Cassie Barlow, chief operating officer, who oversees SOCHE's workforce solutions added, "We're excited to see the number of internship in the region continue to grow. The progress we're seeing really speaks to the commitment of the local business community and colleges and universities to retain talented and engaged students in the region."

Launched in 2012, the 20by20 CHALLENGE is an initiative of the member colleges and universities that comprise SOCHE, along with several strategic partners, including the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, Dayton Development Coalition, and UpDayton.

Formed in 1967, SOCHE is the trusted and recognized regional leader for higher collaboration, working with colleges and universities to transform their communities and economies through the education, employment, and engagement of nearly 200,000 students in southwest Ohio. SOCHE is home to *SOCHEIntern*, the Aerospace Professional Development Center, and Dayton Area Graduate Studies Institute. For more information about SOCHE and all its initiatives, visit <http://www.soche.org/>.

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