WaTech
Washington Technology Solutions

watech.wa.gov
Positioning Washington for the Future

"the consolidated technology services agency" -RCW 43.105.006

Internship Program

Outstanding program gains national recognition

The Washington Technology Solutions (WaTech) information technology (IT) internship program is producing great results and helping replenish the state's IT workforce.

Established in 2011, the internship program recruits college students majoring in IT fields who wish to gain valuable work experience while earning college credits. WaTech's internships last at least three months but 70 percent of students continue past the minimum, obtaining additional work experience and credits.

In the past four years, 43 interns were hired by state agencies and more than 92 were prepared for careers in information technology. Ninety-seven percent of former interns who secured a job after completing our program and graduating college were hired into an IT position.

Intern program highlights:

- Program Manager Jim Sampson was recognized by Government Technology magazine as one of the Top Doers, Dreamers & Drivers for 2014.
- WaTech's partnership with South Puget Sound Community College was highlighted as a best practices model for schools and colleges.
- The program was featured in a nomination submitted for the National Association of Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) 2016 Information Technology Awards. The initiative received the award for IT Employer of Choice.
- The internship program was selected to serve as a high-quality, work-based "Learning Lab" for the National Governors Association Policy Academy.

Program benefits:

- Students gain valuable work experience.
- The state gains valuable assistance with day to day work and special projects. Students serve more than 2,000 customers within multiple agencies across the state and in the Governor's Office.
- The program helps identify new IT talent, eliminates gaps in service that can occur when positions are left vacant, and allows our state agencies to better serve the people of Washington.

Contact IT Internship Program Manager Jim Sampson for more information at **jim.sampson@watech.wa.gov** or call **360.407.9275**

University of Washington -Tacoma student Kyle Sessions, ETS Intern Coordinator Jim Sampson, Former intern and current employee Alex Tate and WaTech Human Resources Consultant Don Chavez at the UW-T career fair.

Where are they now?

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Labor & Industries
Dept. Enterprise Services
Dept. of Retirement Services
Labor and Industries
South Puget Sound CC
Liquor and Cannabis Board
WaTech
Criminal Justice Training Commission
Dept. of Transportation

"It's important to prepare a pool of skilled applicants because many state workers are eligible for retirement within the next five years."

-Jim Sampson, WaTech IT Internship Program Manager