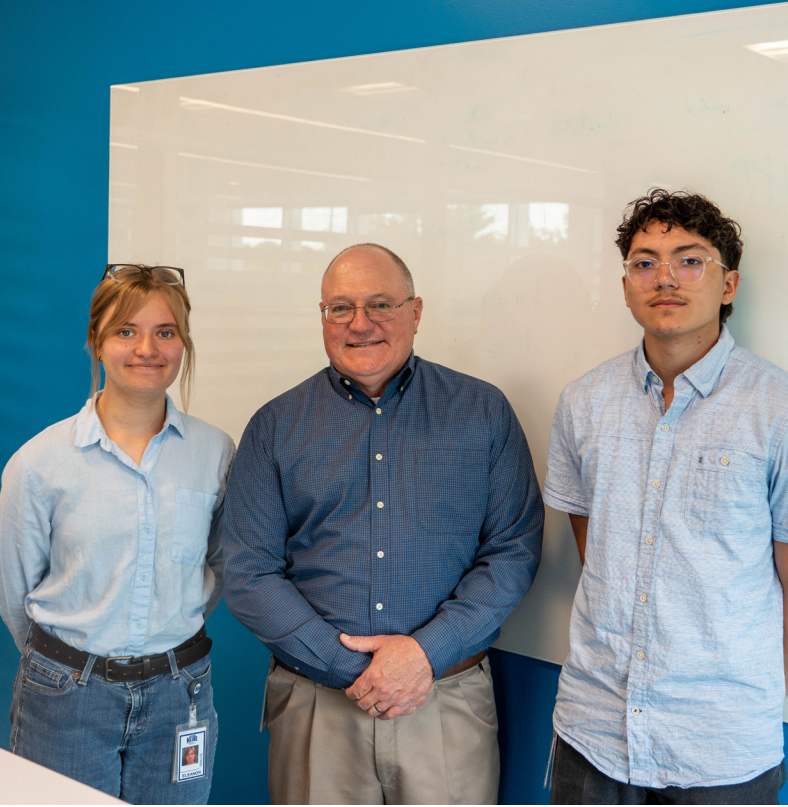




TEENWORK

Summer 2026 Newsletter

About TeenWork

By: Akeem Dubose

KUB's TeenWork program provides high school juniors with valuable hands-on experience and exposure to a variety of career paths. While TeenWorkers gain professional skills, they also develop personal skills, including communication, resume writing, teamwork, and time management.

More than 630 students have been a part of TeenWork since it began in 1995. Several former TeenWorkers have gone on to become full-time KUB employees, with some still at KUB today.

In 2026, TeenWork expanded to include students from West High School, alongside students from Austin-East Magnet, Central, Fulton, and South Doyle High Schools. The program also welcomed new business partners, including UT Medical Center, Wesley House, East Tennessee PBS, and K.D. Style Studio. Returning business partners include the Knoxville Chamber, Covenant Health, West Knox Utility District, First Utility District, and Zoo Knoxville.

By connecting students with mentors from KUB and its business partners, TeenWork helps prepare the next generation of professionals while strengthening connections throughout the community.



Best Wishes from the CEO

TeenWorkers,

I want to start off by saying how proud I am of your hard work and dedication this year! Take a moment to reflect on all you've learned not only this summer at your internships, but also at the workshops and field trips earlier this year.

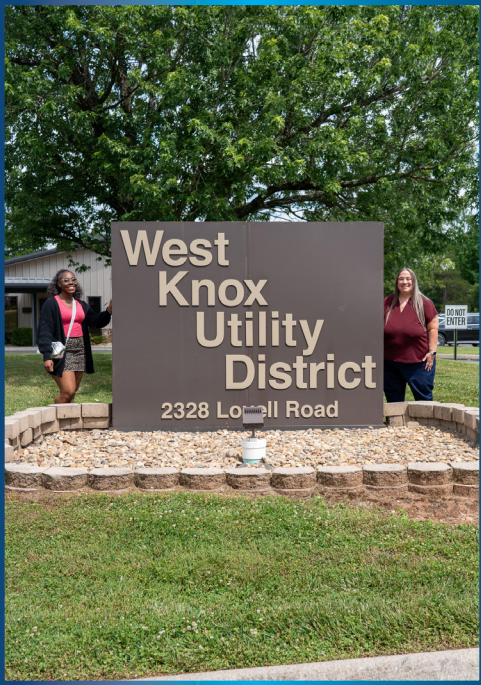
Preparing for your future is a significant undertaking. Through the TeenWork program, you have gained knowledge and experience, as well as connections that you can rely on. There are so many people here at KUB and at our partner businesses who are cheering you on as you enter the next stage of your lives.

I hope you know the future is yours for the taking. Maybe you learned what you want to do for the rest of your life, and maybe you learned what you don't want to do—that's valuable too!

As you close this chapter and enter the next one, I encourage you to use the skills and experience you gained as a TeenWorker to make a positive impact in the community.

Thank you again for your commitment to this program and being a part of something special at KUB.

Gabriel J Bolas II
KUB President & CEO





Hear from the 2026 class



Video by KUB Communications
TeenWorker Akeem Dubose



MARKELL ADAMS
KUB Accounting
Austin-East Magnet High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? At the start of thinking about my career, I wouldn't have thought of becoming an accountant until KUB showed me the opportunity.



BROOKLYN BALLENGER
Covenant Health
Austin-East Magnet High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? I was inspired to apply for an internship with Covenant Health because I hope to pursue a career in the medical field in the future.



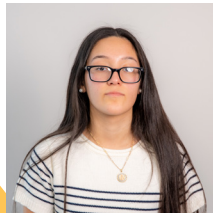
CAROLINE BERRY
UT Medical Center
South Doyle High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? I want to be a nurse and working at UT Medical has always been a dream of mine.



VANIA BROWN
KUB Customer Service
Austin-East Magnet High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? I applied for this internship because I wanted to gain real-world work experience, strengthen my communication skills, and learn how to provide excellent customer service.



NATALIE BRYAN
KUB New Service Engineering
West High School
How do you think this internship will help you reach your future career goals? I think this internship will help me achieve my future career goals by giving me a better understanding of the requirements and responsibilities of a professional work environment.



SARAY CASTANEDA
Wesley House
Fulton High School
How do you think this internship will help you reach your future career goals? I think this internship will help me reach my future career goals because it has allowed me to interact with a wide range of people, which is valuable as I hope to become a lawyer one day.



DEREK CASTELLANO
KUB Water Systems Engineering
Fulton High School
What is the most valuable thing you've learned so far? I think the most important thing I've learned so far is how to use softwares like GIS. This type of software is widely used in the engineering world. Learning more about this software now gives me an advantage in both my college experience and future career.



TRAVIS CLAIBORNE
KUB Transportation
Austin-East Magnet High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? My counselor and friends inspired me to apply for KUB's TeenWork program. They described it as a great opportunity to learn new skills.



KAYDEN CLARK
KUB Underground Construction
Austin-East Magnet High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? My grandma inspired me to apply when she heard about the program. She described KUB as an amazing place.



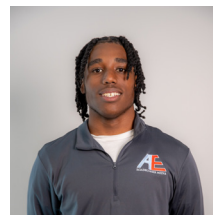
ARYEL CRAYTON
Zoo Knoxville
Austin-East Magnet High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? This program gives me the opportunity to gain hands-on experience working with animals and better understand their behavior.



XAVIER DAVIS
KUB Electric Systems Engineering
Austin-East Magnet High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? I see TeenWork as a chance to strengthen skills I had struggled with before, particularly stepping outside of the classroom environment and improving my social and communication skills.



DANIEL DE FRANCISCO
KUB Information Services
Central High School
How do you think this internship will help you reach your future career goals? This internship has prepared me and given me the confidence to pursue future career opportunities at KUB.



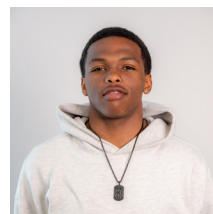
AKEEM DUBOSE
KUB Communications
Austin-East Magnet High School
How do you think this internship will help you reach your future career goals? This internship is helping me build communication and leadership skills that will benefit my future career path. It has given me valuable experience working in a professional environment, creating content, and interacting with people from different backgrounds.



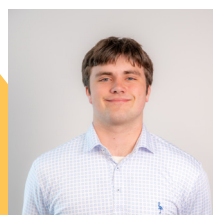
TRINITY DUNN
KUB Fiber Marketing
Central High School
What is the most valuable thing you've learned so far? The most valuable thing I've learned so far is how marketing helps educate people about KUB Fiber and the services available to them. I've also learned the importance of teamwork, communication, and professionalism.



ZOE DUPREE
Covenant Health
Austin-East Magnet High School
What is the most valuable thing you've learned so far? The most valuable thing I've learned so far is the importance of professionalism, teamwork, and effective communication in the workplace.



KEN EASTERLY
KUB System Operations
Austin-East Magnet High School
How do you think this internship will help you reach your future career goals? I think this experience will help me discover what I want to do after high school and prepare me for the obstacles that come with being a working adult.



GUS GLADDEN
KUB Overhead Construction
West High School
How do you think this internship will help you reach your future career goals? It will help me navigate the job search process more confidently because working in a professional environment like KUB has given me experience beyond a traditional first job.



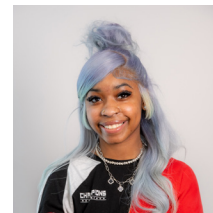
JACKSON GREEN
KUB Electric Systems Engineering
Central High School
What is the most valuable thing you've learned so far? The most valuable thing I have learned so far is how diverse the engineering field is.



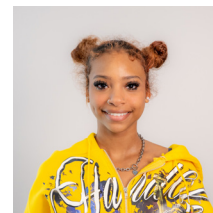
VICTOR HAYNES, II
First Utility District
Austin-East Magnet High School
How do you think this internship will help you reach your future career goals? The knowledge and experience I've gained from this internship will me with my future career path.



BRIDGET HOPPENRATH
KUB Talent Management
West High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? The TeenWork program offers a lot of opportunities. I wanted to be a part of something that has a meaningful impact on our community and that's exactly what KUB does.



MA'KAIJAH JACKSON
K.D. Style Studios
West High School
What is the most valuable thing you've learned so far? The most valuable thing I've learned is how to manage my time. My experience at K.D. Style Studio has helped me improve this skill. Having clients scheduled at specific times has taught me how to prepare in advance and stay organized.



LAURYN JOHNSON
KUB Technical Services
Austin-East Magnet High School
How do you think this internship will help you reach your future career goals? I believe this internship will help my future goals because it's teaching me a lot & giving me insight on something that I might possibly do.



SADAYAH KEY
KUB Procurement
Austin-East Magnet High School
How do you think this internship will help you reach your future career goals? I think it will help me reach my future career goals by helping me adapt to a professional office environment and write professional emails.



MALIA LAWSON
KUB Facilities
Central High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? I have family members who have participated in this program before, so I wanted to carry on that tradition. I saw it as a great opportunity to meet new people and learn about different career paths.



RON'NAYZHA MCILWAINE
KUB Lab & Regulatory Compliance
Austin-East Magnet High School
What is the most valuable thing you've learned so far? The most valuable thing I've learned so far is to keep my options open across different areas of work.



ALEEYA RANGLES
Knoxville Chamber
South Doyle High School
What is the most valuable thing you've learned so far? The most valuable skills I've learned so far are time management and improving my communication skills.



ELEANOR TRAVIS
KUB Water Systems Engineering
West High School
How do you think this internship will help you reach your future career goals? It will help me gain a better understanding of what a future career in engineering could look like for me.



NEAURA WILLIAMS
KUB Fiber Customer Service
Austin-East Magnet High School
What is the most valuable thing you've learned so far? The most valuable thing I've learned so far is how to prioritize my time management when it comes to my work schedule.



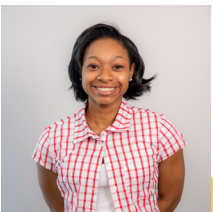
OWEN MCNALLY
KUB Gas Systems Engineering
West High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? KUB came to my school to give a presentation about the TeenWork program. Everything I learned from the presentation made it sound like a great experience.



KIARA RHEA
First Utility District
West High School
How do you think this internship will help you reach your future career goals? This internship has helped me become more confident and better prepared for a professional workplace. It has taught me valuable skills that I can use in future jobs.



DAVID WEAVER
KUB Facilities
Austin-East Magnet High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? My mom inspired me to be a part of KUB's TeenWork program.



JA'RYAH WINTON
East Tennessee PBS
Central High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? I was inspired to apply because I saw TeenWork as an opportunity to strengthen my skills that I felt I had struggled with, which include operating outside of a classroom and communicating with people.



ALIZABETH MENDOZA
KUB Technical Services
Fulton High School
How do you think this internship will help you reach your future career goals? I think this internship will help me in the future because it has already helped me grow in many ways. It has taught me valuable lessons that I hope to carry with me into my next job.



SAM RUCKER
Zoo Knoxville
South Doyle High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? I have a love for animals, and I want to inspire others to be just as passionate for them as well.



KALANI WELLS
Covenant Health
Austin-East Magnet High School
What is the most valuable thing you've learned so far? One of the most valuable things I've learned is to break out of your shell and talk to people. You learn more by asking questions and speaking up.



JEFFREY MINOR
KUB Underground Construction
Austin-East Magnet High School
What is the most valuable thing you've learned so far? The most valuable thing I've learned so far is how to communicate and adapt to various situations.



DARION SMITH
UT Medical Center
Austin-East Magnet High School
What is the most valuable thing you've learned so far? The most valuable thing I've learned so far from my internship with UT Medical is how much attention to details matter.



CHYNA MOBLEY
West Knox Utility District
Fulton High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? Former TeenWorkers inspired me to apply after sharing that the program is both a valuable learning experience and great opportunity. I plan to major in social work, and I think this internship experience will be very beneficial to have.



LEEYAUNA STEWART
KUB Transportation
Austin-East Magnet High School
How do you think this internship will help you reach your future career goals? This experience gives me a better understanding of what I enjoy and helps guide my decision-making process as I consider my next steps, including joining the U.S. Air Force.



JANICE PARRA MORRELL
KUB Communications
South Doyle High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? What inspired me to apply for this internship was the promise of education, and I was ready to learn how to be professional and diligent.



KAITLYN TEETERS
KUB Community Relations
South Doyle High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? My older brothers participated in the program a couple years ago and spoke very highly of their experiences.



LILLIE NJUGUNA
Covenant Health
West High School
What inspired you to apply for KUB's TeenWork program? I was inspired by my dad.



CORBIN THOMAS
KUB Gas Systems Engineering
West High School
How do you think this internship will help you reach your future career goals? This internship will help me reach my future career goals by giving me an experience not every high school student can say they've had.

Additional students who completed the spring sessions:

EZRA ANDELMAN
West High School



ANGELA ASUMPTA
Austin-East Magnet High School



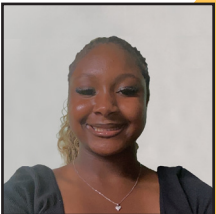
MASON BAKER
West High School



BRIANNA CASON
Austin-East Magnet High School



ARIYONNA DOUGLAS
Austin-East Magnet High School



ISRA'ELLE GLADNEY
West High School



JARIAH JOHNSON
Central High School



GA'NIYAH MCMAHAN
Austin-East Magnet High School



JAHLIYA ROBINSON
Austin-East Magnet High School



JOLENE SELIFIS
Austin-East Magnet High School



DYLAN STEPHENS
South Doyle High School





TEENWORK

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