



KUB's TeenWork offers paid internships for Knoxville-area students
Local utility has provided hands-on learning to 475 students over 27 years

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., July 19, 2022 – The [Knoxville Utilities Board](#) (KUB) will conclude its 2022 [TeenWork](#) program at the end of the month with its 27th class of interns. TeenWork teaches Knoxville-area high school juniors how to obtain employment, learn employer expectations, gain on-the-job skills, and acquire the confidence necessary to succeed. TeenWork introduces local students to the work environment with a paid real-world experience.

"I am so proud of our TeenWork program," KUB president and CEO Gabriel Bolas said. "KUB implemented TeenWork to help young people in the Knoxville community find success when they graduate and start their careers. Seeing the great things our TeenWorkers go on to accomplish is a testament to the importance of programs like this, which is why we've expanded TeenWork to reach even more students."

The current class of 29 students will graduate at the end of July, and new applications for the 2023 TeenWork program will open this fall with classes starting in January and running through next July. The first five months include participating in sessions that allow students to gain valuable insights on various workplace topics, such as goal setting, resume writing, professional dress and team building. Students who regularly attend these sessions are eligible to interview to be part of KUB's eight-week paid summer program. TeenWork pairs participants with mentors to learn actual business skills.

"Being a TeenWorker is about learning and gaining new experiences every day," Aniya Worrels, 2022 TeenWorker, said. "This is very important to help young teens learn about who they are and how to become the best versions of themselves for the future to achieve success."

There are currently 11 former TeenWorkers employed at KUB full-time. One is Chris Lowery, manager of KUB transportation. Lowery participated in TeenWork in 1997 and returned as an intern during college. He was hired after graduation and has been with KUB as a full-time employee and TeenWork mentor for 16 years.

"TeenWork not only benefited me and my career as a TeenWorker, but it continues to benefit me as a member of the TeenWork Strategic Team," said Lowery. "It's really rewarding to have the opportunity to work to improve the TeenWork program. It's also rewarding to see the growth of a student from the beginning of the program to the end of the program and how they mature and become more comfortable in their own skin in a work environment."

To be eligible to participate in TeenWork, high school juniors must attend Austin-East, Fulton, or Central, have a GPA of 2.5 or higher, complete the application and interview

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process, participate in planned meetings and sessions, and show enthusiasm for learning.

KUB continues to improve community infrastructure through its Century II program, and will soon launch high-speed fiber internet as KUB's fifth utility, in addition to electricity, gas, water and wastewater. KUB's ongoing fiber network buildout is expected to increase electric reliability by up to 40% by the end of the seven-year project.

For more information on TeenWork, visit KUB's [TeenWork](#) website.

About KUB

KUB is a municipal utility company serving Knox and parts of seven adjacent counties with safe and reliable electric, fiber, natural gas, water, and wastewater services to more than 473,000 customers. For more information visit kub.org.

Media Contact:

KUB Communications

Kub.media@kub.org

865-594-7988