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Project Idea: Internship Program Collaboration

Currently in my role, I work with students from various backgrounds including coming from under resourced communities, first in their family to attend college, amongst many others. We find many students come to college lacking the experience to prepare for their future post college. The project I would like to implement is an exciting internship program aimed at college students which will not only assist them in their journey from university to the professional world but also provide comprehensive support in landing rewarding positions in various companies or graduate programs. The Program will be designed to begin working with students at the end of their first year of college and continue supporting them until they graduate and secure a job.

The internship program focuses on equipping students with essential skills and resources necessary for success in the competitive job market. We understand that securing a job goes beyond academic achievements, and therefore, it will offer a holistic approach that will cover everything from dressing for success to mastering interview techniques and negotiating salary packages.

I would love for the key components of the program to include:

- **Professional Development Workshops:** This will entail conducting workshops on resume writing, cover letter crafting, and networking strategies to help students present themselves effectively to potential employers.
- **Interview Preparation:** Students would participate in mock interviews and personalized feedback sessions, we prepare students for various interview formats, ensuring they feel confident and articulate during the actual interviews.
- **Salary Negotiation Training:** The program would educate students on the art of negotiating salary and benefits, empowering them to advocate for their worth and the skills they bring in the workforce.
- **Mentorship:** Each student will be paired with a mentor from partnering agencies who will provide guidance, support, and industry insights throughout their internship journey.
- **Industry Exposure:** Have the ability to facilitate opportunities for students to engage with professionals from diverse industries, enabling them to gain firsthand knowledge and make informed career decisions.
- **Graduate Assistance Programs:** For students considering graduate studies, we would offer assistance in navigating the application process, including personal statement writing, securing letters of recommendation and graduate assistantships where they can get their future degrees paid for.

This project would allow our students to enhance their employability skills but also build a robust professional network that will serve them well in their future endeavors. It will also allow

them to build confidence in themselves and teach them workforce etiquette, so they are better prepared.

My mentor would be Chris Ambrosio who is the new Director of the Office of Career Success. He was the previous Director of Opportunity Programs so he's very familiar with the needs of the students that I currently oversee. He has a great understanding of what the student's needs are especially when it pertains to identifying employment and internship opportunities during their college years and beyond.