

2012 -2026





A Legacy of Opportunity

In a world where, 'it's not what you know, but who you know' that matters, college students often find themselves adrift, unable to rely on professional connections that don't yet exist and in need of experiences they've yet to secure. In its conception, SciTech was created to reach those students, extend a hand and offer them a way in.

As an investment in Minnesota's workforce development pipeline, the SciTech Internship Program was built on a simple idea, to act as the bridge between education and industry and make it as easy as possible for college STEM majors and small employers to connect.

On the SciTech platform, businesses promoted their jobs to a pre-vetted pool of highly-skilled talent, while students browsed unique internship opportunities, confident in knowing their applications were received by the decision-makers themselves.

With funding from the state, the program remained free for all participants, prioritizing its recruitment efforts on those most in need of opportunity and support.

Participating small businesses could now offer competitive pay thanks to the SciTech wage match, while students traditionally underrepresented in STEM -women and students of color- made up more than half of SciTech's participants throughout the program's 15 year run.

Within this report you'll find graphs, statistics and numbers meant to convey the lasting impact SciTech had on our greater STEM workforce and its economy, but behind each and every data point is a person who was granted an opportunity and a chance for their future.

To all our participants and partners, SciTech owes its legacy to you.

Thank you,

-Piper Cleaveland | Program Director
SciTech Internship Program

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Piper Cleaveland, the Program Director.



3,530 Interns

SUCCESSFULLY MATCHED WITH EMPLOYERS ACROSS MINNESOTA FOR 15 YEARS

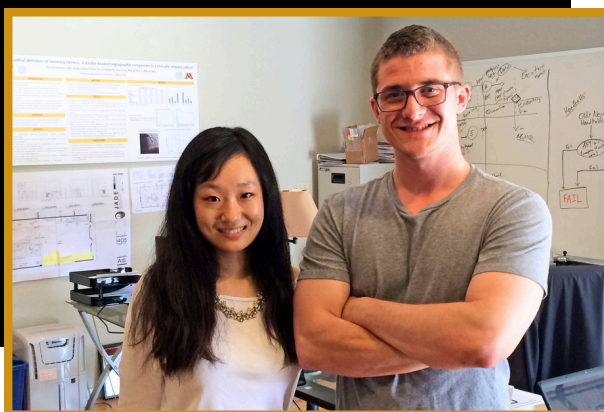
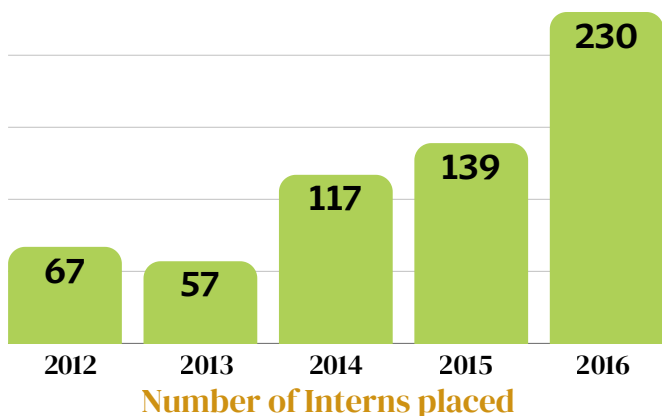


The Early Years 2012-2016



Developed to address Minnesota's STEM talent shortage in 2011, the Minnesota High Tech Association, was awarded a \$150,000 grant from the Minnesota Science and Technology Authority to build and administer the SciTechsperience pilot. In its first year, **67 students** were successfully placed in paid STEM internships.

By 2016, over **600 interns** were matched with small employers across the state. The demand for SciTech was evident, and the Minnesota State Legislature appropriated \$2 million in grant funding to ensure the need for STEM talent support was met.



“SciTech is an **invaluable partner to small employers** who may otherwise have difficulty hiring interns due to budget and resource constraints.

They make it very easy for employers to find and hire **exceptional interns**, and play a key role in preparing and retaining talented students in Minnesota”

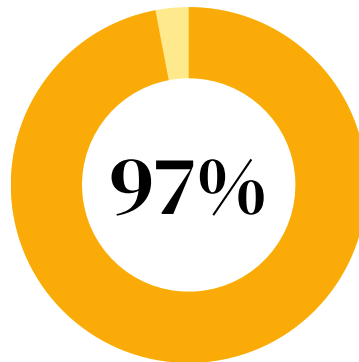
-Lisa Schoening, HR Director,
Aroplax Corp, Monticello



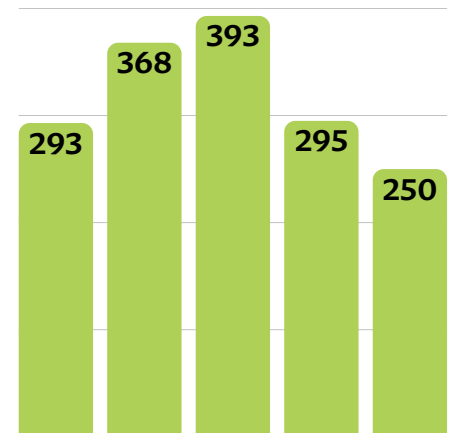
2017-2021

Over the next five years, the program continued to expand, **placing as many as 393 interns in 2019 alone**. The Minnesota High Tech Association became MnTech, and SciTechsperience became SciTech, but amidst the many changes, the quality of internships remained the same.

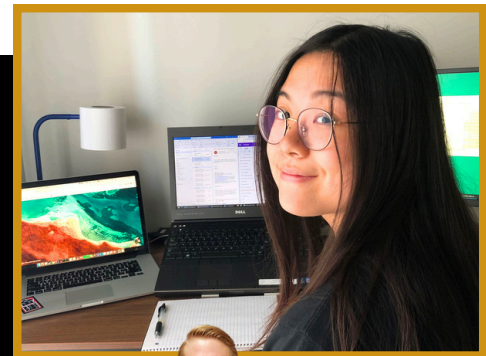
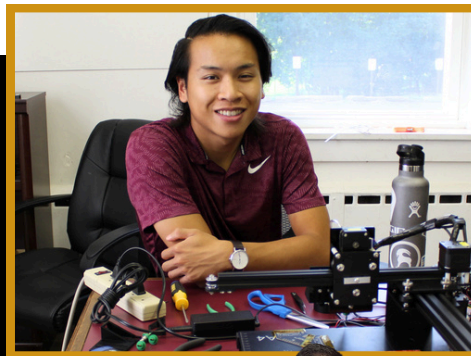
Even the Covid-19 pandemic couldn't stop connections from being made, as IT & Computer Science students transitioned to virtual, and many Biology and Life Science companies -deemed essential during the crisis- safely welcomed students into their labs to help develop life-saving solutions for Minnesota's vital medtech industry.



OF SCITECH INTERNS
Stay in STEM
AFTER GRADUATION



2017 2018 2019 2020 2021
Number of Interns placed

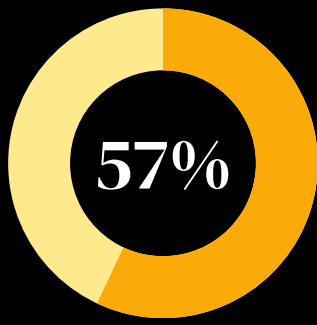


A person with curly hair, wearing a grey shirt and white gloves, is using a microscope in a laboratory setting. The microscope is on a table with a blue grid mat. A bright light is shining on the sample being viewed. In the background, there are other lab equipment and a power strip.

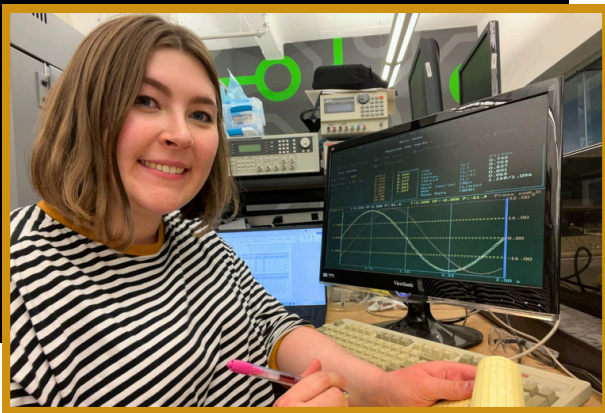
“I fundamentally trust interns, 100 percent. They create so much value. At our internships, we empower folks to come and help craft the experimental design.”

**- Emily Stein | Founder & CEO
Primal Therapies
Minneapolis**





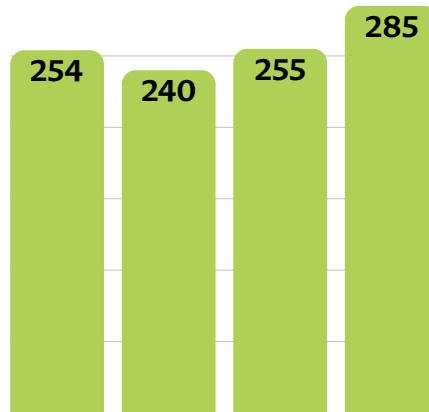
OF INTERNS WERE
Women/ BIPOC
STUDENTS UNDERREPRESENTED IN
STEM



2022-2025

By 2022, SciTech was a proven blueprint for workforce development success. **580 small companies in 145 cities across the state** had participated, creating meaningful opportunities for incoming students while affordably recruiting the talent they required to grow.

SciTech continued to foster connections for those underrepresented in STEM, creating more jobs for women, students of color, and first-generation college students than ever before.



2022 2023 2024 2025

Number of Interns placed





“Having my internship taught me valuable industry skills in professionalism, both in the laboratory and in the conference room.”

**- Matt Skelton | Aerospace Engineering
Intern | Sentra, Richfield**

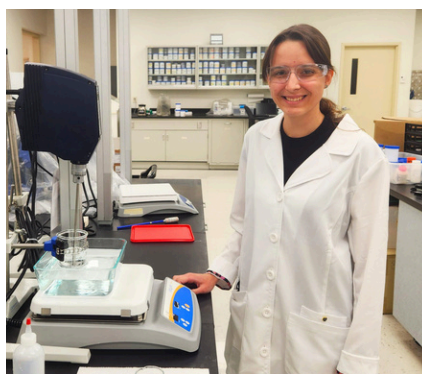
“I was able to find insight into engineering design concepts that only exist outside of the classroom.”



2026

Changes in legislation marked the end of SciTech's State-funded support. But the program rallied, forging new partnerships for one more year of meaningful change.

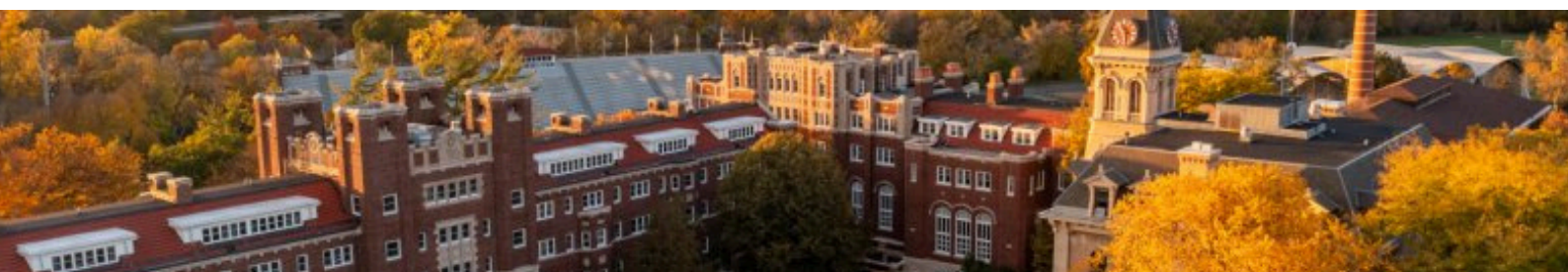
In collaboration with **St. Olaf College** and **Carleton College**, the SciTech program was granted a final season of internship placement and support. **Ten students** were matched with employers in 2026, **five from each campus**. Together, SciTech's last internship cohort served as an embodiment of the program's design, each making impactful contributions to their workplace, while developing the real-world skillsets required for their future careers.



“I am very grateful for the SciTech Internship Program for creating meaningful opportunities that connect students with work aligned with their interests and career goals.

This has been an invaluable opportunity that I would not have been able to find elsewhere.”

-Arevik Armenakyan | Investor Relations Intern RedWind
Renewables Inc. Minnetrista





15 Years of Collaboration

SciTech's long-term success was the result of a partner network that spanned the state, relationships founded and fostered at every major higher-ed campus in Minnesota. Small business organizations, trade associations and tech hubs all came together to strengthen industry pathways for STEM graduates.





A Sound Investment in Minnesota's STEM Workforce

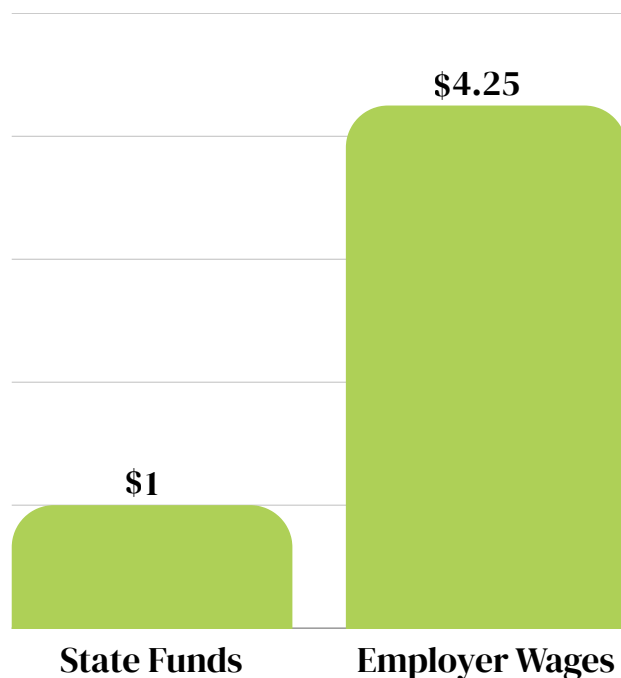
During its final biennium, the Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 annually from the Workforce Development Fund to support the SciTech Internship Program. \$629,500.00 of that annual amount covered participants' wages.

For every dollar the State provided for SciTech students' pay, **private employers contributed \$4.25 in wages paid to their interns**, resulting in a

\$2,675,375

Return on Investment

in 2024-2025 alone.



600+
Small
Businesses

145+
Minnesota
Cities

53+
MN Colleges/
Universities

97%
Interns
Stayed in STEM

3,530
Interns

76%
Interns
Stayed in MN

Lasting Impact

While numbers often speak for themselves, it's the stories behind them that stick in our minds and kindle our hearts. From the interns hired full-time after graduation now managing incoming students, to the entrepreneurial-minded participants inspired to start businesses and hire interns of their own, they are the legacy SciTech leaves behind.

15 years of stories. 15 years of impact. 15 years of SciTech.

