

CONCORD ACADEMY'S InSPIRE PROGRAM

(INTERESTED STUDENTS PURSUING INTERNSHIP RESEARCH EXPERIENCES)

Concord Academy's InSPIRE Program provides qualified high school students with experiential and research-based internships in the Greater Boston Area in the summer between their junior and senior years. The program matches each student with a mentor in their field of interest for a multi-week, unpaid internship.

The goals of the InSPIRE Program are:

- What does a profession in a particular area look like?
- How can I take my learning from the classroom to a real-life environment?
- What does it mean to research a particular area?

Concord Academy engages its students in a community animated by a love of learning, enriched by a diversity of backgrounds and perspectives, and guided by a covenant of common trust. The InSPIRE Program aims to build on these core tenets, challenging students to look beyond the love they have cultivated for a subject in the classroom to see what that passion could be in the greater world.

Concord Academy students apply to be part of the InSPIRE Program at the beginning of their spring semester of their junior year and – if accepted – are matched with a mentor for the summer. Students are accepted based on the strength of their application and interview, demonstrated experience and dedication to a particular area, and availability in the summer. Accepted students commit to a 5-7 week, 4-5 days per week unpaid internship. Each week students submit reflective writings on their weekly progress and work to the Program Coordinator, as well as complete a summative writing piece at the conclusion of their internship. In the fall semester students present their summer work and experience to the Concord Academy community with a poster presentation or another appropriate medium specific to their area of work.

The ideal environment for an InSPIRE intern is one that asks them to go beyond the lessons they have learned in the classroom, lab, or studio and be active contributors to ongoing research projects. Hands-on work under the guidance of a mentor provides the most enriching experience for InSPIRE interns. In the past students have been able to design and implement their own experiments as part of their internship experience.

InSPIRE internships have been in STEM fields, including Human Behavioral research, Civil and Environmental Engineering, robotics labs, and Biomedical Engineering. The InSPIRE Program seeks to expand its opportunities to include areas of Art and Design, including Museum and Archival studies, Curation and Exhibition planning, Design Thinking labs, and Web and Graphic Design.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in participating as a mentor please contact the InSPIRE Program Coordinator at peter_boskey@concordacademy.org.