

# The Dallas Morning News

NEWS > EDUCATION

## What is Dallas doing to put students in the workforce this summer?

Dallas launches fourth year of summer internship program



By **Wilborn P. Nobles III**  
Staff writer

Apr. 2, 2025 | Updated 11:08 a.m. CDT | ⌚ 1 min. read



Dallas Mayor Eric L. Johnson speaks on the positive impact of the Dallas Works comprehensive summer jobs program during a press conference with All Stars Project, Inc., to kick off the annual program which includes the offerings of paid internships to accepted applicants. The press conference was held in the Flag Room at Dallas City Hall in Dallas on April 1, 2025. (Steve Hamm / Special Contributor)

Getting students ready for the workforce is challenging, but providing opportunities to give them both experience and income can help change lives, city leaders said.

Officials announced the upcoming annual [Dallas Works Internship Program](#) on Tuesday as part of the city's strategy to create workforce pathways for those from underserved communities.

City Manager Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert noted that her own career began as an intern in the Dallas mayor's office 35 years ago.

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“No matter what socio-economic background our students come from, we have to invest in all of them,” she said. “And this is one of the ways that we’re able to do it.”

Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson said nearly 150 students signed up for the fourth year of the program that includes those from Dallas ISD, Dallas College and the University of North Texas at Dallas.

Johnson praised the businesses helping build meaningful opportunities for a strong talent pipeline. Companies offering paid internships through the program include the Hunt Oil Company, Bank of America, Dallas Regional Chamber, JP Morgan Chase, Bank of Texas, Parkland Hospital, AMLI Residential, Dallas College, The Arnold Companies and KFM Engineering.

“Dallas Works is helping us unlock the full potential of our city’s youth and setting our kids up on a path to success,” he said.

The city of Dallas plans to employ 20 of those interns in various departments, such as water utilities, the mayor and city council’s offices, environmental services, police and more.

The internship program comes amid stepped up efforts to prepare more Texans for the current and future workforce. According to Gov. Greg Abbott’s office, 63% of jobs in the state will require education beyond a high school diploma by 2030.

But less than 40% of Texans earn a degree or credential within six years of graduating high school, according to the Republican governor’s office. Only 32% of workers have skills for those jobs, according to the Texas Workforce Commission’s labor market information.



Lynn McBee, Workforce Development Czar, City of Dallas, speaks of her vision for the Dallas Works project. Dallas Mayor Eric L. Johnson held a press conference with All Stars Project, Inc. to kick off a new year of the Dallas Works comprehensive summer jobs program. The press conference was held in the Flag Room at Dallas City Hall in Dallas on April 1, 2025. (Steve Hamm / Special Contributor)

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Dallas is the nation's third-fastest growing major metropolitan area, noted the city's workforce development czar, Lynn McBee. But young residents, particularly in West Dallas and southern Dallas, struggle to access jobs with higher wages, she said.

Disparities in West and southern Dallas compared to the rest of the city largely stem from historical segregation and underinvestment in those areas, officials have long said.

The city partnered with the nonprofit All Stars Project to reinvent Dallas Works into a year-round program.

Since November, the city has served over a thousand students through career readiness and skill-building workshops, such as communication coaching, resume writing support and opportunities to interact with industry professionals, city officials said.



Dallas Mayor Eric L. Johnson held a press conference with All Stars Project, Inc. to kick off a new year of the Dallas Works comprehensive summer jobs program. Speakers pictured from left to right are: Candice Hardy, Summer Internship Program Manager, City of Dallas, Lynn McBee, Workforce Development Czar, City of Dallas, Kimberly Tolbert, City Manager, City of Dallas, Eric L. Johnson, Mayor, City of Dallas, Chris Street, President and CEO, All Stars Project, Inc., and Hunter Hunt, Chairman and CEO, Hunt Consolidated Energy. The press conference was held in the Flag Room at Dallas City Hall in Dallas on April 1, 2025. (Steve Hamm / Special Contributor)

Chris Street, All Stars Project president and CEO, said “a city of this vibrancy can be and will be generating thousands of internships every summer, and that’s the vision over the next three to five years.”

Hunter Hunt, the energy businessman who founded the All Stars Project of Dallas, urged industry leaders to step up and hire more students as paid interns.

“We currently have more talented young people trained up and ready to go than we have internships to offer,” Hunt said. “That should never be the case, so let’s tackle that right now.”

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*This reporting is part of the Future of North Texas, a community-funded journalism initiative supported by the Commit Partnership, Communities Foundation of Texas, The Dallas Foundation, the Dallas Mavericks, the Dallas Regional Chamber, Deedie Rose, the McCune-Losinger Family Fund, The Meadows Foundation, the Perot Foundation, the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas and the University of Texas at Dallas. The News retains full editorial control of this coverage.*



By **Wilborn P. Nobles III**

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