

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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PRESS RELEASE

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“Lead by Example” Kicks-Off its 4th Year!

LEADERS IN OUR COMMUNITY SHOW STUDENTS THE INNER WORKINGS OF BUSINESS

Huntington, NY - Students, business mentors, family and friends joined Suffolk County Legislator William R. Spencer (D-Centerport) to kick-off the start of this year’s “Lead by Example” summer internship program with a party at the Tri-CYA in Huntington! The program, which has matched dozens of students with internships at local businesses over the last 4 years, helps young people cultivate work and communication skills by connecting them to opportunities that allow them to explore their interests.

“To help tackle the problem we face in Suffolk County of losing our young professionals, we created this program to provide opportunity and a pathway for our young people to stay and thrive on Long Island. Internships are an integral part of that process as they help students make the connection between what they learn in school, the real world and their communities,” stated Legislator Spencer. “They also give students the chance to showcase their talents to prospective employers. Numerous students involved have been able to use the practical and networking skills acquired through this program to obtain paid positions in their field of interest.”

"Legislator Spencer's *Lead by Example* program is a refreshing way to give back to our community and instill a valuable experience for our youth. The program has allowed our firm to educate and mentor bright students from the local area about the practice and procedure of law. This has been an invaluable experience for all involved!" stated Shelly Leonard of Blau-Leonard Law Group, a local firm which has participated in the program for the last two summers.

In addition to their internship, students participated in personal growth workshops that included information on interview skills, professionalism, phone etiquette, and responsible social media usage. The workshops coupled with the internship experience, gives these young people a competitive advantage at school and in future work endeavors. Beyond a resume builder, the professional exposure gained through this program distinguishes these students from the rest.

"Over the past two summers, *Lead by Example* has presented me with a great opportunity to explore different career paths that I never would have been exposed to without this program" said Michael Gilmor, a rising junior at Providence College. "I believe that internships are a critical part of development, and my internships have shaped not only the courses I choose, but the career path that I am working towards. I have learned a tremendous amount from the professionals who have served as my mentors, and I would highly recommend this program to all young people who are questioning exactly what careers they wish to undertake."

"Lead by Example" will run from July 6th to August 14th. Interns have been selected to work with businesses and not-for profits in the Cold Spring Harbor, Huntington, and Northport areas.

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