What is the L.A. Talent Challenge?

The L.A. Area Chamber is calling on 500 or more L.A. businesses to provide summer employment and internship opportunities for youth by hiring or sponsoring at least one intern this summer. These job and internship opportunities will not only provide valuable early work experience for our young people, but also they will enable your business to benefit from our collective investment in a highly motivated and well-trained future workforce.

What is the duration of the Summer Youth Employment Program?

Employers can stagger their start date as some students start vacation as early as June 19. However, typically jobs start on the first Monday after the Fourth of July holiday. Program lengths range from six to eight weeks.

How are students prepared?

The Chamber, through its L.A. Youth at Work program, provides soft skills training and offers students an opportunity to participate in mock interviews where students (16-24 years of age) are assessed and deemed work-ready and then given access to internship and job opportunities. Your company will get an intern who is work-ready!

Will I be able to interview students?

Yes. The L.A. Area Chamber staff will help you coordinate interviews so that you can select the student who best meets your needs. If you choose not to interview, Chamber staff can identify students for you based on your hiring criteria.

What are some examples of student jobs?

- Human Resources/Community Affairs - schedule events and meetings
- Marketing - assist with development of presentations
- IT - software installation, support desk staffing, troubleshooting
- Operations - receive, validate and prepare customer transactions

What kind of support can I expect during the summer?

Chamber Employer Engagement staff are available throughout the summer to help problem solve and answer any questions you may have. Additionally, we are available to answer any questions regarding goal setting and the evaluation process.

How much does it cost to hire or sponsor a student?

1. To hire a student to work for your company
   a. We recommend for the student to work between 120-150 hours and pay minimum wage (starting July 1, 2017 is $12.00 an hour).
2. To sponsor a student
   a. Your company will contribute $2,300.00 towards an internship (you’ll simply write us a check).

If I want to sponsor or host a student, where do I begin?

You begin by congratulating yourself! You are about to make a difference! Next, contact Maria Nieto, Director, Education Excellence & Talent Development, at the Chamber. She can be reached at mnieto@lachamber.com or 213.580.7599.