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Hundreds of Public High School Students Join Business Executives Across New York City to Experience What It’s Like to be the BOSS FOR A DAY

New York, NY, July 7th - Public school students across New York City will soon be kicking off their summer internships by experiencing what it is like to be the BOSS FOR A DAY.

Today, education nonprofit PENCIL is hosting the city-wide event BOSS FOR A DAY, during which hundreds of high school students will visit businesses across New York City to gain exposure to a successful workplace and speak directly with business leaders about their first job experiences and how to make the most of a summer internship.

Students will be visiting major companies in the tech, health care, media and entertainment, and education spaces. These companies represent major growth industries in New York City and are also among the top areas of interest for PENCIL’s students.

“This is a great day for the students and businesses of New York,” said PENCIL President, Gregg Betheil. “When businesses open their doors to students who might not otherwise have access to the type of companies participating in BOSS FOR A DAY, everyone benefits. PENCIL helps forge paths to success and that begins by teaching students about the world of career opportunities available to them.”

Recent research has shown that less than half of students graduating from high school felt prepared for college and career, yet 87 percent reported that they wanted to go to college. This leaves a large portion of graduates ill-prepared for the next step after high school. PENCIL connects businesses with public schools so students can have the opportunity to see themselves in the future they want and more importantly, the future they deserve.

Internships can increase students’ likelihood of finding full-time employment and their engagement at work – 71 percent of recent college graduates surveyed who took part in an internship are currently employed in full time jobs, in comparison with only 56 percent of those who did not participate in an internship.

“We are honored to be involved in this event and to work with an organization like PENCIL that celebrates the importance of mentoring and teaching today’s youth,” said Debi Feinman, Managing Director at Ogilvy & Mather, a participating company and advertising agency headquartered in New York City. “The principles of diversity and inclusion are a core part of Ogilvy’s DNA and this initiative is a great opportunity to help build the workforce of tomorrow while better preparing New York City students for their future.”

“BOSS FOR A DAY provides a wonderful opportunity for young people to gain exposure to the inner workings of the business world, exposing them to career choices of which they otherwise might not be aware,” said Seth Pinsky, Executive Vice President at RXR Realty. “Of equal importance, BOSS FOR A DAY is also an opportunity for people in the business world to connect with smart and motivated young people, gaining the benefits of their unique perspectives and their infectious enthusiasm.”
“Companies in New York City – arguably one of the most competitive business environments in the world - are only as successful as the quality of people they hire,” said Jack Stephenson, President, Empire BlueCross BlueShield Health Plus and PENCIL Board Member. “PENCIL and its BOSS FOR A DAY program is as much an opportunity for companies like ours as it is for the students involved. We get to showcase career opportunities in the health benefits field and the students get exposed to a career trajectory that until now might have been off their radar. And, on top of that, it’s just a fun, exhilarating day for students and company participants alike.”

The students participating in BOSS FOR A DAY are public high school students from all 5 boroughs of the city. Each student is enrolled in the PENCIL Fellows Program, an intensive career training program that includes a six-week paid internship at a company in New York City. A majority of the PENCIL Fellows come from low-income families and are often the first in their families to go to college. Prior to beginning their internships, PENCIL Fellows complete over 20 hours of work skills training. These trainings cover topics ranging from workplace etiquette to professional networking to ensure they are prepared for a successful internship experience.

About PENCIL

PENCIL is a non-profit organization that connects New York City businesses with public schools and works to open doors for students to succeed in college and in their careers. Visit www.pencil.org for more information or join the conversation #BOSS4ADAY.