

Local Press Release
Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHRM-Atlanta Volunteers Prepare Mayors' Youth Program Students for Successful Summer Internships
(Atlanta, GA)

Every year Mayor Shirley Franklin visits Atlanta city high schools to meet with seniors to mentor them and encourage them to take steps for their future success. These visits spawned The Mayor's Youth Program, designed for students in Atlanta high schools to gain valuable work experience through summer internships.

Employers providing these summer internships initially expressed concern about the student's level of preparedness for the work place and SHRM-Atlanta was asked to develop a training program to ensure the students' readiness and success during their internships. The teens met on Saturdays at the Workforce Development Agency for six classes. A team of volunteers from SHRM-Atlanta developed the curriculum, materials, presentations and notebooks for the students. Over 50 SHRM-Atlanta members volunteered every Saturday from March 10 – April 21 to teach these classes with titles such as: "Integrity - do you have it? Making good choices", "What is appropriate dress in the workplace?" "How to interview for the job", "Understanding costs associated with college and money management" and "How to find out what the hot jobs are and what you need to get them".

Every student who completed the training received a certificate and a professional shirt to wear to interviews and to their internship position. Once the workshops were successfully completed, the students were assigned a summer internship with a company in the city. This year SHRM-Atlanta volunteers helped 526 children in the Mayor's Youth Program, with 390 completing the full set of six classes.

When asked about their experience with the Mayor's Youth Program SHRM-Atlanta's volunteer leaders Anne Dittman and Suzanne LaVoy said, "It was a huge undertaking, but the one thing that remained in everyone's mind were the core values of the organization: the values of personal development, development of others, investment in the future leaders of industry and volunteerism at its best!" SHRM-Atlanta will continue to search for summer internship positions for these students and our volunteers look forward to next year's workshops.

About SHRM-Atlanta

Founded in 1965, SHRM-Atlanta is Atlanta's Most Active Resource for Advancing HR Professionals. SHRM-Atlanta has approximately 1,900 members. Its mission is to advance the profession and serve the professional by offering members a wide variety of educational programs in a common forum to share ideas and experiences. The Chapter's membership represents more than 1500 companies and organizations in the metro area. The Chapter is affiliated with the Society for Human Resource Management, which includes a global membership of more than 210,000. For more information, visit its Web site at www.shrmatlanta.org, or write 3525 Piedmont Road, Building Five, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30305 USA, or call +1.404.869.2568.