



PRESS RELEASE

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Commonwealth STEM Industry Internship Program Webcast Series: Insights and Industries for STEM-Related Careers

The Commonwealth STEM Industry Internship Program (CSIIP), website: csiip.spacegrant.org, is a free-to-use online program that is funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia and matches Virginia undergraduate students looking for a paid internship to companies in Virginia that offer paid internship opportunities. As part of the (CSIIP, the Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC) and the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) partnered again this year to produce free webcasts to be available to students and the public. The webcasts, designed for students who are interested in STEM-related careers (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), will be posted online for general viewing on the CSIIP website at <http://csiip.spacegrant.org/events>.

Two new webcasts were released this week:

- “Making a Good First Impression: the Impact of Social Media,” features guest speaker Claire Jacobs, PhD, Internship Coordinator at Christopher Newport University. Jacobs has a Ph.D. in Communication Studies and more than 25 years of experience counseling and advising students, employees, and employers on developing effective communication skills — written, verbal, and interpersonal. Interviewed by Michael Duncan, Director of Research and Commercialization at IALR, Jacobs discusses the impact of social media on career development, and its applications in job hunting and recruiting.

- “Biotechnology Business and Career Opportunities in Virginia,” features guest speaker Jeff Gallagher, CEO of The Virginia Biotechnology Association, also known as Virginia Bio. Virginia Bio is the premier statewide non-profit trade association representing the life sciences industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Prior to becoming CEO of Virginia Bio in 2012, Gallagher had many years of experience as leader of biotech companies and also practiced corporate law in Richmond, focusing on new technology company formation, international business and intellectual property transactions. Gallagher offers valuable industry information and advice regarding the best paths to follow if interested in biotechnology in the Commonwealth.

The two new webcasts are additions to previous programs that discuss a variety of STEM-related subjects, such as how STEM studies can translate into careers throughout Virginia’s economic and industrial sectors, NASA and aerospace career Pathways, and Virginia Space Grant Consortium’s scholarship, internship and student enrichment opportunities. All CSIIP webcasts are available on the CSIIP website at <http://csiip.spacegrant.org/events>.

The Virginia Space Grant Consortium is a coalition of Virginia universities and community colleges, state agencies, NASA, and other organizations with an interest in STEM and aerospace technology education, research and workforce development.

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) serves as a regional catalyst for economic transformation. Core focus areas include research that provides a clear path to commercialization, advanced learning opportunities where education meets experience, and economic development through conferencing and a partnership with the Southern Virginia Regional Alliance.

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