

# IGNITE INTERNSHIPS IMPACT REPORT

Through a cradle-to-career approach, United Way of Southwest Virginia is addressing the challenges facing tomorrow's workforce. United Way has aligned local support and investment from schools, businesses and government officials to invest in Southwest Virginia's youth – tomorrow's workforce. The Ignite program is bridging the gap and connecting schools and students in 19 different counties located in GO VA region 1 and region 2 with employers and employees by providing internships to Southwest Virginia's youth. Students get a minimum of a four-week summer internship of 80 hours spent on site and 8 hours of pre-employment training designed to develop workplace skills and competencies.



**2019 through 2021** *internships included:*

**58**  
*companies  
participated*



**\$99,312**  
*invested by  
employers*



**102**  
*interns  
participated*



**11,148**  
*hours worked  
by interns*



**47%**  
*of interns'  
first job*



**4,883**  
*Mentor  
hours*



**\$133,994**  
*Total mentor  
investment*



*“Thank you United Way for helping us find talented interns and help area youth discover opportunities in their back yards.”*

**-Mentor**

*“I felt more mature and was treated professionally, like I was an equal part of their team. I have really enjoyed my time there!”*

**-Intern**

## Conclusion

The return on this investment is creating a talent pipeline that prepares the next generation for the jobs of tomorrow, supplying local employers with the skilled workers needed to build a robust competitive economy.

