### **AFCOM Potomac Chapter Launches Internship Program for Third Consecutive Year**

AFCOM Potomac continues its commitment to the development of talent in the Data Center industry through their summer internship program.



# POTOMAC CHAPTER

## Advancing Data Center and IT Infrastructure Professionals

**Virginia, Ashburn, Mar 9, 2021 (**<u>Issuewire.com</u>**)** - <u>AFCOM Potomac</u>, an organization supporting the advancement of Data Center and IT Infrastructure professionals, announces the 2021 AFCOM Potomac Chapter Summer Internship Program, a 10-week course introducing students to multiple disciplines in the data center industry.

The program's objective is to leverage undergraduate engineering student's talents and have them observe and assist with projects within the data center community. Students return to school armed with good references, and a solid foundation of influence, and in some instances, land jobs with their sponsor companies. Sponsors are provided with hard-working, bright students who will be soon entering the job market. "We strategically place the student in a custom program specific to their interests at data centers and other industry firms that support their long-term career plans, whether it be mechanical engineering, architecture, real estate, you name it," said <a href="Phil Baroody">Phil Baroody</a>, VP of Business Development at TechnoGuard, Inc., and AFCOM Potomac Chapter Secretary.

Kyle Warner and Erick Wayman-Baxter, graduates of the program, attribute their current success to their internship experience. Warner, now a Bioprocess Technician at Pfizer, spoke of how the program set him up to excel at Pfizer, "The networking, the opportunity to advance, the people I met, and the overall education were all things that made the program so unique. This internship gave me the opportunity to show companies what I'm made of".

Baxter, a senior majoring in Mechanical Engineering at Virginia Commonwealth University, was hired on at Eaton at the end of his internship there. He has been accepted into Eaton's three-year Leadership Program which begins in July and is already working there part-time until he graduates in May of 2021. "I got so much out it [the internship]. I was never bored, I came out with a job, and so many invaluable connections," Erick said of his experience.

AFCOM is seeking new sponsors and financial support for the 2021 all-virtual internship program to help secure paid internships with a student studying the industry. By supporting the internship project, companies can actively participate in bringing up the next wave of talent in data centers. "We will be continuing this annually to help introduce and drive young talent into the data center space," said <a href="Stuart Dyer">Stuart Dyer</a>, Global Data Center Strategy and Planning, IBM, and AFCOM Potomac Chapter Director of Scholarships & Internships.

If you are interested in supporting the AFCOM Potomac internship program financially or wish to host an intern for either two-week or four-week sessions, please visit <a href="https://potomacafcom.webstarts.com/internship.html">https://potomacafcom.webstarts.com/internship.html</a>

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#### ABOUT AFCOM POTOMAC

We support the states of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia for individuals (members and non-members) who wish to learn about, participate in and network with the Data Center Community. AFCOM advances through education, networking, and guidance the professional development of individuals and the organizations they serve in the field of data center and IT infrastructure management

AFCOM is actively participating in the education and training in the data center space, and in 2018 instituted an internship program. The program provides hands-on experience and invaluable connections for both the intern and the company that sponsors them. There is a great competition for talent in the Northern Virginia area, and AFCOM is dedicated to helping fill jobs with qualified professionals.

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