



The Howard County Gifted and Talented Intern/Mentor Program

*Empowering students to contribute
to the larger community by applying,
creating, and evaluating knowledge
in a specialized area of study*

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Gifted and Talented Intern/Mentor Program is a college-level course in which students design an original research study or creative production. Students study off-campus with a professional mentor in a self-selected area of interest. Student research or creative production focuses on contributing new knowledge to the field of study. The G/T Resource Teacher facilitates classroom and internship experiences, focusing on advanced-level research methodologies, college-level writing, and oral presentation skills. At the mentor site, students apply the knowledge and skills they have learned in an authentic, professional environment. Students interested in one G/T elective credit spend five hours per week on site while students wishing to earn two credits spend ten hours per week on site.

THE MENTORS

Mentors provide students with expert professional guidance in a particular field. The mentor helps the student identify an authentic problem and guides the student with the development of discipline-specific skills needed to conduct the research. Students are expected to develop an advanced product for presentation to an appropriate audience. Mentors offer guidance in specific disciplines within a wide array of fields, such as: Applied Arts • Behavioral Sciences • Business • Clinical Medicine • Computer Science Education • Engineering • Humanities • Languages • Law • Mass Communication Performing Arts • Science Research • Veterinary Medicine

MENTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The mentor's responsibility is to provide an environment in which the student can learn and engage in professional activities appropriate to his/her increasing knowledge and experience. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Providing an environment in which the intern can learn and interact with other professionals
- Providing activities which promote the intern's understanding of the field
- Assisting the intern in focusing a research problem and locating resources
- Reading and evaluating the intern's ongoing research
- Evaluating the intern's progress and professional growth
- Reading and signing monthly summaries.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: THE MENTORS

As a mentor, I experienced great pride in seeing our intern grow into a confident, active, and contributing member of our multidisciplinary team; assuming total responsibility for several key aspects of our program and conducting a quality improvement study that taught us ways to enhance the services that we provide to medically fragile infants and their families. The time and energy that we put into our intern was returned to us ten-fold.

Brenda Hussey-Gardner

Assistant Professor

University of Maryland School of Medicine

As a mentor, I have the opportunity to directly share my experience and enhance a student's education. It allows me the opportunity to discuss how the principles of our system of government and our constitution are applied on a daily basis in our courts. My children are graduates of a high school in Howard County, and mentoring is one small way I can stay connected and give back to the educational community that was so instrumental in my children's lives.

Judge Neil Edward Axel

District Court Judge

I have been involved with the G/T Intern/Mentor Program for several years and have found it to be quite a rewarding experience both personally and professionally. The students bring an enthusiasm and youthful exuberance, which is a pleasure to behold. They are eager to learn and ask thoughtful questions. The papers and products they develop are of a consistently high level of scholarship.

Scott S. Kuperman, PD

Compounding Pharmacist, NeighborCare



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G/T STUDENT INTERNS

Students enrolled in the Gifted and Talented Intern/Mentor Program apply through the school and meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Prerequisite knowledge in the field of interest
- “B” average or above in the area of study
- Commitment to previous tasks in which responsibility, independence, and initiative were demonstrated
- Evidence of successful interaction with adults.

G/T INTERN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Gifted and Talented Intern/Mentor students apply their creativity and commitment in the real world and make significant contributions by:

RESEARCHING

- Researching the psychology of juvenile offenders with the Senior Assistant State’s Attorney
- Developing a consistently effective method of trimming resistors, thus reducing cost and increasing efficiency

WRITING

- Presenting published research at national and international conferences
- Contributing articles for publication in the *Baltimore Sun*

COMPUTING

- Creating a program for tracking and identifying the flight paths of tactical ballistic missiles at the JHU/APL
- Developing web sites for technical departments

PRODUCING

- Creating a county-wide, student written and produced high school magazine published annually
- Designing a model of an architecturally efficient school building, presented to the Board of Education
- Designing, producing, and marketing a t-shirt line targeted to children and teens promoting individuality and self-confidence.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: THE MENTORS

There is no greater joy than seeing a student accomplish something he or she has worked hard to achieve. That is just one of the rewards of serving as a mentor in the G/T Intern/Mentor Program. At The Baltimore Sun's Howard County bureau, students are encouraged to develop original story ideas, building upon their knowledge of the schools and other topics of interest to young people. Their contributions help us better serve the community. Serving as a mentor with high school students keeps you young. Their enthusiasm is contagious, and their perspective is refreshing.

Stan Rappaport
*Deputy Bureau Chief
of the Howard County Sun*

The intern becomes a colleague when he/she walks through the door, and as much as I am there to teach them the little secrets of engineering, I am also there to treat them like a fellow employee and give them the resources they need to seek out solutions on their own.

Matthew Ashmore
Mechanical Engineer, ATK

As an owner of my own company, I thought I would change lives by being a mentor for the Howard County G/T Intern/Mentor program. Instead, the students have changed mine. The students I mentor will change the world, and I am humbled to be a part of such an amazing and life changing program. As someone who has been mentoring the brightest students from Howard County for the past six years, it is as rewarding to me as it is to the students.

Manish Singh
Owner, Victor Rossi