



## 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln Testimonials

By making an investment in our community's youth, 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln and its Champion Employers are able to showcase Lincoln as a workforce leader and inspire the talented youth in our community. 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln has received many testimonials over the last five years. Here is a snapshot of some:

### **Community Partners:**

"The Career Academy (TCA) is excited to partner with LHRMA to contribute to the ongoing success of 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln. The potential to connect TCA programming and networking students is a tremendous opportunity. Working with previous Champion Employers, as well as creating new Champion Employers through our pathway support teams and other local employers, is a win-win for everyone involved."

- **Dan Hohensee, Director, The Career Academy**

"1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln is everything you hope for in a community partnership. Students get invaluable experience doing real work for real companies and a chance to see the awesome job opportunities that await them in Lincoln when they finish school. Employers get access to tech talent and a chance to help develop our next generation of IT leaders. And as a community, Lincoln benefits by giving bright minds opportunities that incentivize them to stay here." – **Rachel Placzek, Director of Talent Strategy, Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development**

"Early identification of the talent pipeline is important to our community. The 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln program is an opportunity for IT professionals to create positive summer internships for high school students. This is a great introduction for students to the world of work and to the exciting career opportunities that are available here in Lincoln." - **Jan Norlander-Jensen, City of Lincoln – Greater Lincoln Workforce Development Board**

"The 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln pilot project proved to be the highlight of the year for ITP students [LPS' IT Focus Program]. The opportunity to obtain a paid summer internship in a local IT firm really generated more excitement in ITP students than all other activities combined. LHRMA's Workforce Readiness Committee provided a high-quality experience that has had an extremely positive impact on the lives of many ITP students. As a teacher, it has been exciting for me to observe the impact 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln has had, and will continue to have, on the futures of these students." - **Steve Carr, former LPS IT Focus Program Instructor**

"1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln is providing incredible opportunities for our students. I am very grateful to the employers and organizers for providing experience and exposure to the incredible careers and possibilities that Lincoln's flourishing technology sector has to offer. 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln is a great program for all involved and is truly of great benefit to the entire community." - **Scott Burns, former Pius X High School Program Instructor**

### **Champion Employers:**

“The internship was fantastic; Adam was a joy to work with. It’s truly amazing that high school students can possess such a high level of talent and excel in their internships. The overall experience was good, I selected Adam from a few students that were interested in the position that interviewed with me. I’m sure we will be participating in 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln in some form next year!” - **Davis Podany, New Media and Digital Assessment Coordinator**

“This has been a wonderful experience! Noah is absolutely amazing and we are very happy with his progress.” - **James D. Johnson, Office Manager, City of Lincoln | Parking Services Division**

“Cabela’s IT experience with 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln has been an extremely rewarding experience. The student interns who we have sourced through the program have provided us with an outstanding resource pool each year. The capabilities of the interns we have worked with have far exceeded our expectations. The program is all about challenging students with real world experiences in a professional real world environment. We also have a little fun along the way, which is very natural when you are working with a young group of up and comers. I’m very proud of Cabela’s participation in 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln and look forward to continuing to partner with this success story into the future.” - **Justin Poole, Solutions Delivery Sr. Manager**

“Jonathan meets and exceeds expectations. Jon is very prompt and polite. Jon has brought things to the table that we hadn’t thought of. We have no end in sight for his employment. Jon works some 8-hour days at his request to better understand what a full-time position would be like. I’m impressed with him. Tabitha definitely will look at this program in the future.” - **Darrell Sievert, Vice President of Information Technology, Tabitha Healthcare**

“This was the second year the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Information Technology Area has participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln. We were, again, excited to be asked to participate in the program. Austin [intern] has been an inspiration to us as he did not hesitate to work on our hard drive destruction project. He created a program that allows us to search many spreadsheets simultaneously, by keyword. This was quite impressive. Austin has a wonderful work ethic as well. The 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln program is great and we plan to work with them in the future.” - **Ed Ewbank, Senior Information Systems Analyst**

“Kaplan University-Lincoln was humbled and honored to be a Champion Employer with the 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln internship program. I was utterly impressed with the organization and communication between 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln, the Champion Employers, and the students. At the student job fair you could tell 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln invested a lot of valuable coaching and mentoring into these students to prepare them to interview with their possible employers. This will be an internship program that the Lincoln campus will be a part of for a long time to come.” - **Kate Packard, President, Kaplan University-Lincoln**

“We have been very impressed with the talent these two 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln interns have brought to us. They are hardworking and eager to learn. IT at a place as large as UNL is complicated, and both interns have been making great strides in understanding and helping with it. We have no doubt that both the interns and ourselves will take a lot of positives out of this internship experience, and we look forward to working with 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln again next year.” - **David Hartline, Director of Information Technology & Facilities Operations at UNL’s College of Business Administration**

“This program is great for the business owner who wants to acquire talent with basic skills and interests in IT” - **Daren Lichty, Panology, First time Champion Employer of 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln**

“We have had over 300 interns in the last 4 years. The High School Interns contracted through 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln have been exceptional.” - **Bill Udell, Don't Panic Labs**

### **Interns & Parents:**

“I am ever grateful for the opportunity provided for me here. I have a job where I can apply myself, an office space in which I can work, and people I can turn to for support. Thank you so much for all you have done for me. The knowledge and skills I have learned here will help me succeed in the future, and I look forward to using this experience to further my education in computer studies. And I will continue to work hard for my remainder of my time here. Thank you.” - **Student Intern**

“Getting a job after the internship is really an amazing perspective on the real world and also a valuable experience that cannot be lost or forgotten. 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln gives kids like me an unreal opportunity.” - **Student Intern**

“The opportunity to work in a professional environment that relates to Andrew’s academic passion will help him determine if this job fits his career choice before he begins his college life. It also gives him new skills in networking with other highly trained people in our community to build his personal and professional relationships. I look forward to seeing this opportunity expand into other fields in the future. I would really like to thank everyone involved in this program...wonderful opportunity for our students in Lincoln.” - **Parent of Student Intern**

“Thanks so much for doing this! My son Liam participated. What a wonderful experience to spend time with the various employers, learn firsthand how to develop a resume and conduct yourself in a possible interview. Fabulous program!” - **Parent of Student Intern**

“Words cannot describe my appreciation for the opportunities that both 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln and the UNL College of Business Administration have given me.” - **Student intern**

“My advice to prospective 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln interns is to realize you are going to have a good experience regardless of what company you connect with. I would say, don't limit who you talk to at the Job Fair!” - **Noah Costello, Third Year 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln Intern**

“I would suggest to prospective interns, take a job offer if you are interested. You will build your confidence and become more career ready!” - **Lucas Goodding, First year 1<sup>st</sup> Job-Lincoln intern**