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[More than 170 Paid STEM Internship Positions Available through STEM Ready](#)

(Gainesville, Fla.) Area companies are expanding their hiring thanks to CareerSource North Central Florida's latest offering, STEM Ready. CareerSource NCFL is reporting that, as of Wednesday, May 4, more than 170 open paid STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-based) internships are available with more than 40 participating businesses in Alachua and Bradford counties.

The positions span across STEM Ready's four core industries: software & information technology, biotechnology, engineering & mathematics, and healthcare & health science positions. The program helps companies in any field, regardless of whether or not it is a tech company, fill STEM-related positions. Sample positions include nursing, accounting, or software development.

Paracosm, a Gainesville-grown 3D mapping software company, has listed several STEM Ready positions for front-end web developers, software engineers, and programmers to create augmented reality experiences with its technology.

"The STEM Ready program allows our company to grow and gives us a chance to help local job seekers strengthen their skills and experience," said Julie Matheney, head of marketing at Paracosm. "CareerSource North Central Florida covers wages for those we bring on through STEM Ready for up to twelve weeks - giving us plenty of time to get people trained and evaluate whether or not they'd be a good fit - without any risk."

Positions in other fields include an engineering role as a "Geospatial Analyst" with Altavian, the Gainesville-based unmanned aerial data systems company, and a research & development director role with Surf Plasma, Inc., a local plasma-based sanitizer developer. The Gainesville-based company was a 2015 Cade Museum Cade Prize Sweet 16 finalist.

"Our goal as a board of directors is to guarantee our workforce system is staying ahead of the rapidly growing demand for workers with science, technology, engineering, and math skills in nearly every sector," said CareerSource North Central Florida Board Chair Don Davis, president of Capital City Bank. "The strong response from our business community shows our programs and policies are touching on a critical need in the market."

"We are pleased to see our business community, particularly our thriving startup community, respond so well to STEM Ready," said CareerSource North Central Florida Executive Director Anne Favre. "As our team begins working with businesses to place interns, we're looking forward to more and more individuals gaining the training and work experience they need to thrive in high wage, high growth STEM fields."

STEM Ready is a U.S. Department of Labor grant-funded program that provides training, paid internships and job placement assistance in STEM careers for individuals who are long-term underemployed or unemployed. CareerSource NCFL staffing specialists then work with businesses to identify individuals who could be a good fit for open positions. The program is provided at no cost to the employer or workers.

Employers provide real-world experience for up to 12 weeks of paid internship where participants earn valuable skills in a STEM occupation. Wages are set by employers and paid directly by CareerSource NCFL through the grant during the twelve weeks. After twelve weeks, employers may hire the intern. If an employer doesn't hire the intern, staffing specialists at CareerSource NCFL will use the skills and training obtained through the internship to help find them employment with another area business.

Applications are taken on a rolling basis and are available online for businesses and workers at www.careersourcencfl.com/stemready.

Worker applicants with questions can contact Kim Brown, CareerSource NCFL staffing specialist, at kbrown@careersourcencfl.com or (352) 244-5117 to make an appointment.

Employers with questions should contact Raydel Cornelio, Business Services Manager, at rcornelio@fmsworks.com.

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