



Opening the door to students: Internship Action Team

by Mark Brenner of Eagle Group

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The FIA internship committee was established to give the world a more accurate picture of career opportunities in foodservice.

We know that the average high school or college student's exposure to foodservice is limited to a somewhat narrow representation – those most likely to interact with the general public in retail, school and restaurant settings.

The committee's goal is to communicate the true breadth and depth of career possibilities in all the sectors of foodservice – those we're intimately familiar with but are often pursued behind the scenes and away from the public eye.

Our target audience is students, veterans and any professionals of any age looking to grow, change or enhance their careers. Our industry is in desperate need of both young highly energetic people as well as older, more experienced talent.

Admittedly, there is some negativity associated with the operational side. Our challenge is to overcome that – and expose jobseekers to the positive opportunities on the manufacturing, consulting, and dealership side too.

We are working to establish guidelines for potential candidates, and also working with trade schools, high schools, colleges and universities. All the institutions we have contacted have responded very positively and genuinely appreciate with chance to work with a group of industry professionals like FIA.

A letter of introduction about the internship program will be going out this fall to all FIA member companies, detailing goals and how each company can participate in the program. In the first phase, FIA Internships will be made available only to FIA member companies, with potential positions including but not limited to product engineering, CAD, industrial engineering, marketing, sales, consulting and more.

Depending on school guidelines, the position might be strictly education credit, or may require a salary or stipend. We are working very hard to have our first interns in place by the fall semester of this year.

If you are interested in participating in an internship program, please [e-mail us](#) and let us know what positions you might like to fill with an internship – we will do our best to connect you.

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