

D211 POST: CISCO SYSTEMS ADDS STUDENT INTERNS FOLLOWING CAREER EXPO



Photo courtesy of Cisco Systems.

On April 4, 2018, Township High School District held its first Career Expo. The expo was attended by nearly 100 area businesses representing all 16 career clusters, as well as more than 400 students looking to explore post-education career possibilities.

One business in attendance was Cisco Systems. Service Delivery Lead Ramya Vijay said she heard about the expo from District 211 Internship Coordinator Jan Brottman. Ramya said she was acquainted with the District due to the networking courses focusing on Cisco was offered at the Palatine High School.

“We saw this, in part, as a way to encourage more students to take networking courses,” she said. “We felt that District 211 was the best to start expanding our STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and Math) initiatives.” During

the Career Expo, We had an overwhelming number of students interested in internships with Cisco.

“We received more than 50 resumes,” Ramya said. “After rigorous interviews, we selected 10 students to intern with us. Cisco also wants to encourage girls in STEM , so had a good number of girls join our internship as well”

During the internship, students were exposed to the many aspects of Cisco including hands-on lab work, tech classes, applications in real-world scenarios, and meetings with various executives from Cisco. They were asked to create ideas and present business case for entrepreneurship during their innovation challenge. Students were awarded gift certificates for the best idea for the innovation challenge. Ramya and her Cisco team were very impressed with the District students.



Photo courtesy of Cisco Systems.

“The students were highly motivated and disciplined,” Ramya said. “No one missed any classes. There was a lot of engagement from students and parents. While they learned from us, we also learned a lot of things from them as well. It was a great experience.”

Ramya added that she was impressed with the Career Expo.

“It’s a wonderful thing to have the expo,” she said. “It is never dry. We had a constant stream of students and parents. This expo is time well spent for any business.”

This year’s Career Expo will be March 13, at Schaumburg High Schools. Businesses wishing to participate can sign up at www.tinyurl.com/2019D211Expo The deadline for businesses to register is February 22.