Technology With a Global ♥
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TECHBRIDGEWORLD
Carnegie Mellon University

iSTEP: innovative Student Technology ExPerience

A unique research internship opportunity from TechBridgeWorld at Carnegie Mellon University

What is iSTEP? iSTEP (innovative Student Technology ExPerience) is a unique internship program that provides Carnegie Mellon University students with the opportunity to conduct technology research projects in developing communities. Started in 2009 by the TechBridgeWorld research group, iSTEP is a rigorous and competitive 10-week internship program that requires the involvement of students with high levels of dedication, team work, cross-cultural adaptability, initiative and academic achievement. Students who have participated in iSTEP in past years have exhibited tremendous personal and professional growth as a result of their experiences conducting field research in developing community settings.

What's new for iSTEP 2015? iSTEP 2015 is partnering with the Mathru Educational Trust for the Blind (Mathru) in Bangalore, India on assistive technology for Mathru students who are blind, deaf or hard-of-hearing, students with multiple disabilities, and their teachers. Projects are sourced from the needs assessed by the iSTEP 2013 team at the Mathru.

Can we sponsor iSTEP? Yes! Many companies are looking for creative programs to meet their social responsibility goals while also recruiting top university graduates as their future employees. Furthermore, collaboration with industry partners lends a level of prestige to the iSTEP program that not only assists us in recruiting the best students to apply to iSTEP, but also is of great value to our partners overseas. TechBridgeWorld is grateful to the generosity of our sponsors.

What can a $10,000 gift do for iSTEP? A $10,000 donation in the form of an unrestricted gift would allow TechBridgeWorld create a named iSTEP fellowship in your company's honor. It costs approximately $10,000 to cover stipend, airfare and other internship-related costs for one iSTEP intern. All levels of sponsorship are appreciated and will be put to good use for iSTEP 2015! Contact us to learn more about other funding levels.

Meet SL, former iSTEP participant: Shree Lakshmi (SL) Rao graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 2014 with a master's degree in Interaction Design. She was leader for the iSTEP 2013 Needs Assessment team working with the Mathru Educational Trust for the Blind (Mathru) in Bangalore, India.

"I decided in my second year as a master's student at CMU that I wanted to spend my summer after graduation working in the field where I can apply my design research skills to real problems faced by underserved communities. I saw a poster for iSTEP, wrote down the details and applied. What I have learned during the iSTEP internship is valuable to me as a designer and a human being. We all learned. We all grew together. We all made friends and we hope that we made a big enough impact at Mathru. Thank you TechBridgeWorld for giving me opportunity to work, love and deliver." - SL Rao

Adapted from SL's blog entry "What's in a title?" https://istep2013.wordpress.com/2013/08/04/whats-in-a-title/