BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN INTERNSHIPS

1. EXPERIENCE IN REAL EMPLOYMENT SETTINGS
   - Learn real job skills
   - Get to try out work and see if you like it
   - Enhance your resume

2. CAREER EXPLORATION
   - Opportunities to learn about and try out different jobs

3. PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL INTERACTIONS
   - Work alongside other professional adults
   - Learn how to communicate in a workplace
   - Practice self-advocating at work

4. NETWORK
   - Make new friends
   - Make professional contacts
   - Many jobs are obtained through WHO you know

5. ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS IN EMPLOYMENT
   - Try out different tools to become independent
   - Visual supports, assistive technology, cell phone, communication devices, etc.
   *These may be different from school

6. CONNECTION WITH ADULT SERVICE PROVIDERS
   - Work with Vocational Rehabilitation
   - Build a relationship with a job coach who will really get to know you

7. POSSIBLE PAYCHECK
   - Some internships are paid, some are not
   - This is established before you begin
BENEFITS OF HOSTING INTERNSHIPS

1. WORKFORCE DIVERSITY
   - Build a supportive and inclusive workplace culture
   - Active engagement in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives

2. CREATE A PIPELINE FOR TALENT
   - Allow employer to assess prospective employee as a match for the company before making final hiring decision

3. EDUCATION & TRAINING
   - Work with Vocational Rehabilitation professionals and receive disability awareness & individualized education

4. MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
   - Professional development and growth for employees
     - Who lead the internship program
     - Who oversee/mentor interns

5. A NEW PERSPECTIVE
   - Interns with disabilities may see things through a different lens

6. ENHANCED WORKPLACE CULTURE
   - Improved performance and efficiency
   - Fulfill unmet needs
   - Greater retention of those hired

7. POSITIVE PUBLICITY
   - Set yourself apart from competitors
   - Attract new clients/customers

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