

“Mentoring young people is an important responsibility for those of us who are in positions to do so. It's so gratifying to work with high school students and see their eagerness to learn. It can really change their lives in a positive way.”

Ramiro Ocasio, Information Governance Analyst
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

“Summit's Work-Based Learning Program helps increase awareness and acceptance and allows employees to experience firsthand what it is like to work with an individual with disabilities. It's a win-win situation for everyone.”

Christine Mascialino, Manager, Administration
AIG

“High school students can learn roles like office support or customer service, which provide a perfect fit for important entry level jobs that we are seeking to fill. Building your talent pipeline with high school students is a win-win.”

Robert Graber, Chief Executive Officer
Long Island Temps



About Summit

The Summit School's Work-Based Learning Program is unique for its diversity of work experiences and pre-vocational emphasis. While some high schools offer work programs designed as pathways to specific careers, Summit takes a general approach by providing valuable experiences at a variety of workplace settings over four years of high school. The goal is to teach students successful behaviors and important work skills that can be used in all areas of post-high school life.

Students with no known career preferences, as well as those with particular interests, such as culinary, cosmetology, or computer science, can benefit equally from this program due to the diversity of participating business partners.

The preparation students receive at Summit — a rigorous Regents curriculum combined with relevant work experiences — allows them to graduate with an academic transcript and an impressive resume.

Summit's Two Programs

There are two Work-Based Learning Programs. Students in grades 9-11 travel in small groups with Summit job coaches who are responsible for their direct supervision. Each group works for three hours one day a week at its assigned job site. Students generally start out working in retail settings as stockroom assistants. As they progress through the program, work sites change and tasks become more challenging. Students learn current office technologies at banks, law firms, and utility companies, and practice important communication skills as volunteer educators at some of the most visited museums in New York.

The final stage of Summit's Work-Based Learning continuum culminates with the Senior Internship Program where students can explore actual careers of interest. Senior students intern at job sites for a minimum of five hours, one day a week. They follow standard pre-employment practices, such as submitting resumes and interviewing for their positions.

What Resources Must a Business Commit?

The involvement of job coaches for students in grades 9-11 means that there is minimal supervision required by employees at these sites. Usually, we coordinate with one or two employees at the partner company who provide early training and assignment details to our students. Senior interns work without a Summit job coach, so supervision by someone from the sponsoring company is necessary.

The Summit School provides liability insurance for all job sites. Companies do not pay our students, nor do they incur any costs through involvement in the program.

“Today’s employees are looking to work at organizations that place an emphasis on diversity and giving back to the community, and participating in Summit’s program signals to our staff that we are thinking about both in an innovative way.”

**Ian Bazzoli, Director of Talent Acquisition
LendKey Technologies**

A “Win-Win” for Everybody

Many of our partner companies find that working with students creates renewed energy among their staff. The employees look forward to mentoring our students and some report that it helps them spotlight the importance of their own jobs to their companies.

Involvement in work-based learning is also a great way for business leaders to help the future generation of employees by cultivating a more prepared and responsible workforce. A number of our business partners have hired Summit students as employees upon graduation.

“Summit students bring their own enthusiasm, and it’s contagious. On the day they come to our bank, there’s a noticeable difference in the air.”

**Lisa Funaro, Vice President
Ridgewood Savings Bank**

How To Get Involved

Companies desiring to learn more about how to participate should contact:

Tara Caprdja
Director of Work-Based Learning Programs
The Summit School
718-264-2931, ext. 213
Email tcaprdja@summitqueens.com

More than 50 business sites are involved with The Summit School’s Work-Based Learning Programs

AIG*	Modell’s Sporting Goods
Allied Medix	Astoria Store
American Museum of Natural History*	College Point Store
Animal Medical Center**	Fresh Meadows Store
Applebee’s	Ozone Park Store
Astoria	Montessori Day School of Brooklyn**
Queens Center Mall	New Frontiers in Learning**
Barnes & Noble	New York Hall of Science
86th Street Store	New York Public Library
Court Street Store	Battery Park City Branch
Park Slope Store	Heiskell Library for the Blind
Bravo/Oxygen Media	New York State Senator
Compass**	Todd Kaminsky District Office
Con Edison	NYU Langone School of Medicine STEP Program**
ChemLab	Old Navy
Corporate Office	Chelsea Store
Mechanical Garage*	College Point Store
Constructure Technologies**	Fulton Street Store
Crown Trophy New Hyde Park	Oliantha Garage Corporation**
Crowne Plaza JFK Airport Hotel	P.S. 20 John Bowne
Dogscipline	Elementary School**
Fort Hamilton Community Club**	P.S. 503 The School of Discovery**
Grandstand Sports & Memorabilia	Queens Botanical Garden
Hicks Nurseries	Rapid Ratings**
J&G Flat Fix Inc.**	Ridgewood Savings Bank
Kirkland & Ellis LLP*	Riverhead Foundation**
LendKey Technologies**	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Lewis Johns Avallone Aviles LLP*	Scribbleno Entertainment**
Long Island Children’s Museum	SUNY Downstate Medical Center**
Long Island Temps	TechKids Unlimited**
	The Gateway School**
	The Physical Therapy Doctor**
	The Port Authority of NY & NJ**

*Job Site & Senior Internship
**Senior Internship

The Summit School is a nonprofit school that provides educational and therapeutic services to students with special needs from New York City’s five boroughs and Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties.



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“We learn to work. We work to learn.”

Work-Based Learning at The Summit School

