



# RISE MILWAUKEE

*A newsletter highlighting Regional Internships in Science & Engineering program*

ISSUE 3 • MARCH 2021



## RISE PARTNERS CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

For the past eleven years the Regional Internships in Science & Engineering (RISE) program has connected dozens of students and employers as they develop talent for the Greater Milwaukee workforce. As we began recruitment for the 2021 RISE Program, we caught up with former student Elijah Gallien, who credits RISE for his career choice in Construction Management. "RISE has helped me choose my career tremendously," said Elijah. "Being given the opportunity to join the program as a college freshman and getting my first internship in the industry that summer helped me gain a better understanding of what a typical day looks like as a civil engineer. At that time, that's what I thought I wanted to be. After working side by side with civil engineers and project managers I was able to reshape the future of my career because I fell in love with the business side of construction and learned that I could get my degree in Construction Management rather than civil engineering. If it wasn't for RISE and getting real world experiences from my internships I probably would have been stuck with a degree and career that I didn't really love."

With RISE being a collaborative program, Elijah's second year was a unique experience. Showing interest in construction company J.H. Findorff & Son Inc., he cultivated a relationship between them, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and Prism Technical. "Findorff wasn't a part of the RISE program at that time, after switching my major and the RISE program not having a lot of general contractors hiring students, it felt great to be recognized for bringing an employer to the program and I knew I was on the right track for my career."

RISE MILWAUKEE  
NEWSLETTER

The RISE MILWAUKEE newsletter is published quarterly to highlight the RISE participants, provide information about the program to the community and connect potential students and employers that can benefit from the internship program.





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Elijah's participation in the program for three years led him to his current position as a Project Engineer for CG Schmidt, which has also partnered with RISE for three years. By recognizing the talent that diversity brings to ideas and experiences, CG Schmidt has committed to providing opportunities in the Milwaukee area for a century. "Our partnership with the RISE program is one of the ways that we work to accomplish our mission. We have partnered with the RISE program for the past three years and have had great success meeting intern candidates that we may not have connected with through our typical recruitment channels. The students are dedicated to the program and the internship experience," wrote Rick Schmidt, President and CEO. Currently, there are two Project Engineers working for CG Schmidt who were RISE interns. One was selected by CG Schmidt through the interview process, while the other maintained a relationship over the years at networking events and recognition ceremonies.

The RISE Program is one of the ways MMSD has strived to enhance their workforce by hiring diverse and local talent, but this is only the beginning. MMSD Executive Director, Kevin Shafer says, "RISE has been a success, but much more work is required. MMSD is committed to the program's success not only for our betterment, but also for the betterment of the region."







"I am thankful to **RISE** for the **REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE** and connections I have made going **FORWARD**."

- Cierra  
RISE intern  
at C.G. Schmidt



"I can not think of an **OPPORTUNITY** that is more beneficial, educational and **IMPACTFUL** to an engineering student than **RISE**."

-Sam,  
RISE intern  
at Stantec



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