

From: [Mark Gehring](#)
To: [CSC](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Hildebrandt](#)
Subject: Support for Maydm internship program
Date: Saturday, November 19, 2022 10:40:27 AM

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Hello Community Services Committee members,

My name is Mark Gehring. I'm a Maydm board member and longtime Madison technology entrepreneur, having co-founded Geometrics that became the local Philips Medical Systems division, as well as UltraVisual/Emageon and Propeller Health.

Over the years I've hired hundreds of software developers, and have struggled throughout to build diverse teams, which I believe would result in higher quality products for our customers. This led me to get involved in Maydm.

The internship program is of particular interest to me. At our current company ImageMover we spent two wonderful summers with a Maydm intern, Brandon Anderson. I worked personally with Brandon as he developed software for several actual features in our Android app. Brandon participated in our engineering and staff meetings, essentially working as a junior engineer. It was very impactful for our team - a tremendously positive experience. We jumped at the chance to have Brandon return for a second internship.

Brandon is now majoring in Computer Science at Carleton University, where he received a full scholarship. He was featured in a Cap Times article this past summer:
https://captimes.com/news/education/mmsd-class-of-2022/article_97bf4df4-40ff-5c38-a0cd-a6d2aef251ed.html

In addition to small technology startups like our company, Maydm has successfully placed interns at larger technology companies like Exact Sciences and CUNA Mutual. As one of the fastest growing tech communities in the country, our sector needs a diverse next generation workforce to support our growth. Our homegrown technology talent needs to reflect our Madison values of equity and inclusion. The Maydm internship program is one of the only local programs targeted at this issue - and already producing positive results.

So I **strongly support** the funding for the Maydm internship program that was put forth by city staff.

In a few years Brandon will hopefully return to Madison to begin his career. Let's repeat that success story with other students by funding the proven Maydm internship program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark

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