

**PHILADELPHIA YOUTH NETWORK (PYN) –
A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR PEBA MEMBERS
By Renée L. Rosenfeld, CEBS, SPHR**

If your organization is located in Philadelphia and needs an intern, Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN) may be just the organization for you. As the managing partner of two citywide initiatives, **WorkReady Philadelphia** and **Project U-Turn**, PYN helps prepare Philadelphia's emerging workforce to thrive in a regional and global economy.

WorkReady Philadelphia coordinates public, private, and foundation investments to place young people in high-quality programs that incorporate work experience, academic enrichment, and college exposure. WorkReady provides skills training and industry pipeline programs and coordinates school-year and summer internships for Philadelphia high school students with paid workplace experiences at area businesses. These internships afford Generation Xs and Ys a taste of the working world, exposure to career opportunities, and an understanding of how school is connected to economic success.

Project U-Turn is a citywide campaign to raise awareness of, and develop strategies to, address Philadelphia's dropout crisis. Designed to enhance the career prospects of struggling students and out-of-school youth by expanding the availability of high-quality education and training options, PYN manages a collaborative of citywide leaders and stakeholders to oversee the Project U-Turn campaign.

PEBA and PYN are now working together to increase awareness about PYN and to offer PEBA members an outlet to get involved. Through this collaboration, PEBA members will also be given access to PYN's Employer Education Series programs, career panels/fairs, and mock interviews, including training in child labor laws and instituting pipeline programs.

To learn more about PYN and their educational and volunteer opportunities, contact Festo Okidi at (267) 502-3724 or fokidi@pyninc.org. For information on hiring a summer intern, contact Farrah Farnese at ffarnese@pyninc.org or (267) 502-3702 or visit www.workreadyphila/internships.com.

Look for more information about PYN programs through PEBA in the months ahead.

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