

The Southeast Side Experience Incubator The St. Francis de Sales Work Study Program

“The option of a Catholic education in connection with a structured work study program can make a world of difference for a student. At CIBC, we genuinely care about these students, providing them with skills training and coaching so they develop over time and transition from timid freshmen to confident upperclassmen who go on skills training and coaching so they develop over time and transition from timid freshmen to confident upperclassmen who go on to succeed in college.”

BETH WITCZAK, CIBC, SFDS Class of 1984 and Work Study Partner
Managing Director and Head of CRA Strategy & Community Impact at CIBC

The mission of the Southeast Side Experience Incubator (SSEI) Work Study Program is to employ St. Francis de Sales High School students in jobs and provide the resources to help students gain valuable skills and experience in a professional work environment.

Students gain employable skills plus the confidence that they can succeed in a professional environment. The work experiences provide insights to career paths that can impact student’s college decisions and life.

SSEI contracts with partner companies throughout the Chicago, IL area and Northwest Indiana to fill entry-level positions at their places of business. Students are placed in teams of four and work throughout the school year (late August to June) except during school vacations like Christmas and Spring break. Student workers will be assigned to specific locations or work remotely from the school. Partner companies can hire full or partial teams. Partners pay a fee for the student team.

SSEI Benefits to businesses include:

- Work study is a cost-effective alternative to a full-time employee
- Student workers are employees of SSEI with a strong work ethic; no benefit costs, no employee related taxes to the business partner
- Student workers are provided job skills training by SSEI prior to the start date, plus ongoing support and training is provided to students
- Partners work with a relationship manager to ensure satisfaction
- Work study will help enhance your company’s diversity and establish a professional relationship with potential full-time employees

Current partners include the American Bar Association, CIBC, GN Bank, Gnade Insurance, Invert, Naylor Pipe, SkyArt, Golub Real Estate and RCP Advisors.

More information can be found www.sfdshs.org/workstudy or contact Hugo Chavez, Director of Work Study at hchavez@southeastsideincubator.org.

“At my work study job, there was a big meeting with company leaders and city officials. They were talking about plans for a new building complex, and one of them asked me, ‘What do you think the Southeast Side community needs in this space?’ They asked me. It made me feel like I wasn’t just a student—I was a member of the team.”

Brooklyn Oliver, St. Francis de Sales High School Junior