Governor’s Innovation Fellowship

StamfordNext 2020
Connecticut’s Talent Bottleneck

• One of Connecticut’s most valuable exports is college and high school graduates

• How do we help Stamford companies compete to attract and retain the highest-caliber degree holders in the short and long term?
The Governor’s Innovation Fellowship (“GIF”) Overview

Recruit and retain Connecticut’s best STEM-focused college graduates through a prestigious fellowship program that provides opportunities for professional and personal growth.

Stamford 2020 GIF Program

- Match 20 graduates of Connecticut universities with 20 fantastic jobs at innovative Stamford corporations.
- Develop a strong sense of community between fellows, their companies, and their city through mentorship, professional development events and personal networks.
- Offer an incentive structure to help attract the top candidates to work and play in Stamford.
- Organized and administered by StamfordNext, the CTNext Innovation Places organization for Stamford.
Governor’s Innovation Fellows are high-achieving members of the class of 2020

The fellow candidate pool will be developed from an application circulated to universities statewide

An outside committee of experts will select the highest-potential young professionals and future leaders with academic and/or professional experience in STEM industries and a demonstrated desire for rapid professional growth
The Fellowship Experience

• Once the top candidates are selected, fellows will be invited to apply for jobs at GIF partner companies. Candidates will be interviewed directly by the companies, and hired through their regular hiring process.

• As they begin their careers, fellows develop deeper relationships within their cohort and their firms through executive mentorship and curated community events for all 20 fellows.

• Fellows receive a $5,000 grant from StamfordNext as both incentive and reward for living and working in Stamford (60 days after their start date).
The Partner Company Experience

• Stamford-based partner companies are given access to CT’s most motivated and high-performing graduates, seeking high-skill early leadership positions. GIF makes the process of finding these graduates far easier for our host companies.

• Provides opportunities allow C-Suite level executives to engage in mentorship and skills-transfer throughout the organization.

• The fellowship’s community-building programs will create relationships among a fun group of like-minded individuals, which will hold fellows in the same job for longer.

• Partner companies develop brand recognition from participation, become sought after by other graduates and grow more integrated with the Stamford community.
Partner Company Commitments

• Fellows are hired into a STEM-adjacent or leadership development position within the company with full-time salaries and benefits

• Partner companies are tasked with creating a challenging yet rewarding work environment

• Partner company executives are challenged to find innovative ways to develop the skills and careers of their fellows

EXAMPLE

This program revitalized Indianapolis and shows an example of what the GIF could accomplish.

See the Program
As of 1/15/2020, the following firms have agreed to hire one or more Fellows to work in their Stamford Office, with further positions at standout companies expected by 2/1/2020:

Participating Firms

*ISG*  
*sema4*  
*octagon*  
*Henkel*  
*pitney bowes*  
*CURACITY*  
*TREBEL*
Recruitment begins fall 2020 for start dates in summer 2021

Grow fellow cohort from 20 to 30+

Dedicate GIF staff to organizing more varied and valuable community and professional development events for fellows

Growing partner company engagement will rise along with the prestige of winning or hiring a Governor’s Innovation Fellow
Higher Education Discussion Points

• Are there any academic groups on your campus for innovative, STEM-minded students who could be good candidates for this program?

• Have any Graduating Seniors at your institution accepted positions in Stamford, CT which could qualify them to be named Fellows?

• How would you ideally incorporate the Fellowship into your school for the class of 2021 and beyond?