The **Michigan Corporate Relations Network (MCRN)** is a statewide university network designed to create partnerships that will connect state industry to critical university talent in ways that will help the Michigan economy grow and prosper. Six public universities in Michigan make up the network. They are Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, Wayne State University, Western Michigan University, and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and Dearborn. There are also 9 public universities that are affiliates of the MCRN. These universities include Central Michigan University, Eastern Michigan University, Ferris State University, Grand Valley State University, Lake Superior State University, Northern Michigan University, Saginaw Valley State University, Oakland University, & the University of Michigan-Flint.

One component of the MCRN is the **Small Company Internship Award Program (SCIA)**. This program provides to each school that meets the requirements of the program, funding to help Michigan small businesses hire students to work as interns on projects that are both beneficial to the company and academically relevant to the student.

**ELIGIBILITY, AWARD, AND REPORTING GUIDELINES**

- Participation in the program is based on a first-come, first-serve eligibility basis.
- The company is a start-up or a small-sized Michigan business, up to 500 employees with significant business operations occurring in Michigan. Prioritized preference will be given to:
  - A company that is focused on innovative work in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields and provides a STEM internship
  - If not a STEM focused company, should provide a STEM focused internship
- A company may participate with up to 2 of the network schools and employ up to 2 interns using funds from the SCIA program (please note that if there are 2 interns from 1 school, they would split 1 award).
- Preference will be given to companies who have not yet received a SCIA award, or companies that have participated in SCIA previously and have hired their SCIA intern on a part-time or full-time basis.
- Each school will manage its own application and selection process to select companies to participate beginning in January, with all company awards final and interns hired by May.
- The company will conduct interviews, make the internship offer, assign a supervisor, provide orientation, training, and performance expectations and feedback for the intern. Consultation and guidance will be available from the school for development of the internship job description and promoting the internship to qualified students.
- The company agrees to a site visit/phone call before and/or during the internship period by a MCRN school representative.
- The maximum award for a company is up to $3,500.
- The intern’s compensation will be funded 50% from the SCIA program (but not more than the matching award) and 50% from the employer so that, for example, total student earnings of at least $7,000 would need to be reported for the company to be eligible for a matching $3,500 award.
- An hourly rate of pay of a minimum of $12 is recommended, commensurate with academic major, internship expectations, and student’s qualifications.
- Upon completion of internship, company agrees to submit a report outlining the benefits, outcomes, and deliverables gained as a result of internship, as well as the destination of the student upon completion of the internship. This information will be included in the final report to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).