



FELLOWSHIP

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Brief overview

The Fellowship connects college students with project-based experiences that support their professional growth while helping business explore ideas, complete research, develop resources, or move forward work that may benefit from additional capacity. Through the Fellowship, students complete an independent project comparable to the work of an entry-level employee, gaining hands-on experience while applying their academic knowledge to actual business challenges.

What do business partners get by hosting an IgniteU Fellow?

- A fresh perspective and actionable deliverables on projects you may not have had time to tackle.
- Access to emerging talent and a direct contribution to the regional workforce pipeline.
- A structured partnership with support from the IgniteU team throughout the semester.
- Support in areas such as cybersecurity, programming, social media, business analysis, IT research, and operations planning from two to three students who are:
 - Curious, driven, and eager to contribute to meaningful work.
 - Students who will benefit most from the experience – those who have not yet participated in similar consulting, internship, or applied project opportunities.
 - Majoring in fields such as:
 - Technical disciplines: applied computing, computer science, computer engineering technology, cybersecurity, informatics;
 - Business & Strategic fields: business administration, marketing, or management;
 - Creative & Analytical areas: interactive media, game design, or related communication and design programs.
- Creative solutions developed with research and stakeholder input.

What do we ask from partners in return for support of the fellowship?

- Provide a challenge or question for the fellows to solve.
- Allow the fellows independence to work with minimal (a few hours each week) guidance from someone on your staff.
- Openness to where the work leads – the results may surprise you.

What are we looking for in a Fellowship project?

- Projects that allow Fellows to be creative and independent.
- Projects that are not task based nor critical to the success of a current commitment.

The aim of the Fellowship is to allow Fellows to fail forward and learn and to work with a mentor to achieve a goal with minimal direction – thus possibly making mistakes along the way and learning from them in a safe environment and ending up successful in the end.

Next steps

If interested, please complete the [Partnership Inquiry Form\(for Spring 2027\)](#) by clicking on the link provided or use the QR code to tell us about your needs. You can also contact the program lead, Dayna M. Maniccia, Dr.P.H, M.S., Principal Program and Partnership Specialist, NYSTEC (dmaniccia@nystec.com or (518) 368-0515).

