

# For Immediate Release

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## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM EMPOWERS STUDENTS TO GROW INTO FUTURE TECH LEADERS

**Oxnard, CA (August 5, 2025)** – For a small group of determined students, a summer internship surpassed expectations of simply offering work experience, it became a career launchpad. Through United Water Conservation District’s hands-on Technology Systems Internship Program, participants stepped into real-world IT environments, built practical skills, and gained the confidence to pursue occupations in tech, cybersecurity, and systems administration.

Beginning in 2024, the program has welcomed students from a variety of backgrounds, some commuting more than two hours each day, united by a shared drive to learn and make a difference. They worked side by side with experienced mentors, explored everything from system upgrades to cloud tools, and contributed meaningful improvements that made daily operations run more smoothly.

“Watching these interns grow has been nothing short of inspiring,” said General Manager Mauricio Guardado. “This program reflects what is possible when opportunity meets determination. We are honored to play a part in shaping the next generation of the water industry and grateful for the lasting impact this team has made on our organization.”

Participants brought fresh ideas and a strong grasp of modern tools, helping to streamline communication systems, modernize outdated software, and support helpdesk operations. Their creativity and energy sparked improvements that benefited not just the teams they worked with, but the entire organization.

Interns also gained something less tangible, but just as important: a sense of belonging in a professional environment. Through mentorship, collaboration, and real responsibility, they left the program with sharper skills and a clearer path forward.

“We took the time to identify young talented students from various schools throughout our immediate region and beyond and seen them grow both personally and professionally. They have learned how to take initiative, gained confidence on the job and that has led to them making meaningful contributions,” said Chief Human Resources Officer Josh Perez. “We’re proud to be part of that experience. Their collegiate success, learning experiences, and familiarity with current software and hardware tools have enhanced overall staff performance, thanks to this outstanding program.”

The success of the program’s first participants has sparked plans to expand internship opportunities across other departments, continuing the commitment to empower the next generation of innovators, community-minded team players and water industry leaders.

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**About United Water Conservation District**

Since 1927, United Water Conservation District (District) has served as a leader among water agencies by managing, protecting, enhancing and securing the water resources of the Santa Clara River and Oxnard Coastal Plain. The District works to protect the environment's natural attributes and conserves runoff from all major tributaries of the Santa Clara River, including Piru, Hopper, Sespe, and Santa Paula Creeks. Committed to managing the area's water supplies through groundwater replenishment and the construction and operation of efficient water supply and delivery systems, the District serves as the conservator of groundwater resources that are utilized by the cities of Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Ventura, Santa Paula, and Fillmore, as well as Naval Base Ventura County and several mutual water districts, farms, and individual pumpers. The District also provides surface water for agricultural irrigation and treated drinking water to the cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme. [www.unitedwater.org](http://www.unitedwater.org)