



**Best Practice Award  
The Shriver Center, University of Maryland,  
Baltimore County**

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The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) established The Shriver Center in honor of Eunice Kennedy Shriver and Sargent Shriver in 1993. As part of its mission to effectively relate the talents and resources of the University to the needs of the community, The Shriver Center has developed highly regarded and effective experiential learning programs.

These core programs include: 1) a comprehensive academic Internship, Cooperative Education, and Research Program, 2) Lunch and Learn Career Series, 3) Shriver On the Road Field-trips to Worksites, and 4) a Student/Alumni Job Shadow Program. These four programs provide UMBC students with a comprehensive array of work-based learning opportunities.

The **Internship, Co-op, and Research Program** offers students opportunities to connect classroom knowledge to practical work experience in real-world settings. Each year, over 1,200 participating students are enrolled in a zero-credit, pass-fail practicum recorded on a student's permanent transcript that provides a record of the student's participation in a University sanctioned placement and enables The Shriver Center to evaluate the student's performance. The Center also hosts weekly **Lunch and Learn Career Series** to bring employers from organizations which hire interns to not only talk about careers within a specific industry, but also drive the importance of gaining work experience into the student body prior to graduation. Each semester, these panels draw over 300 students. Additionally, instead of bringing companies to campus, the Center takes students directly to employers through the **Shriver on the Road Series**. Each company visit includes a tour of the facility and a discussion about internship and career opportunities. The **Student/Alumni Job Shadow Program** was launched to get underclassmen excited about their majors and future careers through workplace visits with alumni.

The Shriver Center has a 15 year track record of success in coordinating nearly 18,000 intern, co-op, and service-learning arrangements for UMBC students. With the addition and expansion of its Career Panels, Shriver on the Road Visits, and Job Shadow program, The Shriver Center engages more students early on in their career to build excitement and participation in UMBC's core Intern, Co-op, and Research Program.