EXPLORING A NEW KIND OF APPRENTICESHIP

ProStar Geocorp’s environment is technical, where knowledge and understanding of software, cloud computing and asset management are critically important. And while the company’s vice president of operations, David McGee, had historically brought in computer-science-focused college students as short-term interns, the opportunity to hire high schoolers was a new concept. But McGee was intrigued to try it out when he heard about CareerWise’s program and approach. “Many young people are raised on technology, and I figured that someone who is eager, wants to try hard, and has the skill set to work with a technical company can be groomed and taught,” he said. And in summer 2017, ProStar hired William.

APPRENTICE CONTRIBUTIONS

While McGee could envision the potential contributions of a high school student who had certain technical skills and a positive attitude, he did not expect just how quickly ProStar’s apprentice, William, would assimilate to the workplace. He came ready to learn and has had a significant impact.

Joining ProStar with no formal training or education, after only seven months, William was testing software functionality, writing test cases and developing client documentation. His work represents approximately a 20 percent cost savings compared to what ProStar would normally pay an hourly-equivalent staff member on the quality assurance team.

“He’s already exceeded the break-even point, about four months ahead of schedule.”

DAVID MCGEE
PROSTAR| VP OF OPERATIONS