

## **More Affordable College Education**

**Many students in high school choose to transition to college where they will spend numerous hours studying in their fields and developing professional skills. Many choose to look for employment after high school rather than furthering their education. They lack the funds to continue their education due to the high cost at institutions or they do go to college and incur many loans which becomes burdensome after college. At the same time, hospitals are looking for their next upcoming nurses and doctors. Schools need new certified and qualified teachers. Companies are looking for engineers, programmers, and coders etc. What if you can get paid for going to school while getting good grades? What if I say I can change our local community to become a flourishing town so everyone can be successful? Are you a high school student that wants to go to college to study in a field of interest, or are you a business looking for talent and want to bridge the gap of the expenses of higher education? I've come up with a solution that can one day be the answer to these questions and the solution to affordable education.**

**Students go to school to prepare themselves for their future career ahead of them. Businesses' recruits spend thousands of dollars looking under rocks and mountains for the best candidate to join their company. When really the future homegrown employee is right in your local community. Students also aim to have a dream career of a lifetime without the dark cloud of college expenses following them for decades. Students and businesses each have something that they need from each other. Businesses have the financial means collectively to bridge the financial gap and make this mutually beneficial relationship work.**

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**I propose a program where there would be a requirement of both businesses seeking local college educated graduates and high school students in their senior year preparing for college to create a savings account that's connected with the school board. Businesses will deposit a certain amount monthly, quarterly, or yearly and in return those funds are tax deductible and will pay for a student's tuition in the program. A student from this program will work for the business upon graduating with a specified grade point average and successful completion of unpaid internship with one of the businesses in the program. Students will not be able to touch those funds until the students have met certain requirements, have graduated from high school, and have proof that they're registered at a college that is in the program. I believe a predetermined value should be given to each college field and that would determine how much a business will contribute to that fund every year. There's a famous saying that "school is your job," with my proposal we can now put those words to action. My solution to affordable education will allow students to study more diligently, focus more on education, receive a quality education, and won't have the fear of not having employment after college.**

**Today's economy is constantly evolving. The economy is a global market where outsourcing has become the norm. The program I proposed will make some businesses employ more domestic talent. We are ensuring students are getting a quality education in the field of their choice and allowing companies to look in their own backyard.**

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**Companies apart of the program are able to invest their money into their own future of their company. Businesses in the program can add additional requirements to possible candidates to ensure the student selected to work for their company meets the requirement of the job. Thus, making the college to work transition much smoother and students are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed. Connecting the dots will be like a matchmaker relationship where both are compatible for each other.**

**Ideas for creating funds can start with philanthropy, but most funds will come from company sponsorships. Money can be deposited into a fund that can be used to supply incoming freshman college students' tuition and book expenses, possibly even room and board. Then the monies from the fund will be disbursed after all requirements are met for each year at the end of the semester to pay for expenses for the following semester. This begins at the end of their senior year to pay for funds for the beginning of freshman year and so on and so forth. Meeting the requirements at the end of the senior year and upon graduation then rewards the students with a job in their field of study. Those students that are matched up with a company, must stay with that company and work for a minimum of 5 years for the company. This ensures that the company receives the full return on investment.**

**With this proposed program, local businesses will have the power to change the perspective of how much college costs and the future outlook on college/university and business partnerships and sponsorships. This program will be mutually beneficial for businesses and students. It addresses many problems such as having insufficient**

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**funds to pay for college, receiving loans with high amounts that affect your monthly income after college, many graduates who are unable to get employment in their field of study, and it reduces the need for businesses to have to spend so much time and effort scouting when the relationships with graduates are already being built and fostered. Jointly as a community we can create affordable education for students.**