

2024-2025 Environmental/Occupational Health and Safety Work-Based Learning

Connecting UTEP students with environmental/occupational health and safety internship opportunities



Opening Up the Health Manufacturing Field to UTEP STEM/Public Health Students

The occupational and environmental health and safety field comprises interdisciplinary roles and opportunities that focus on protecting human and environmental health in the workplace, communities, and beyond. Partnering with Schneider Electric, Workforce Solutions Borderplex connected UTEP seniors with internship opportunities in the occupational and environmental health and safety fields, allowing them to gain practical experience and skills in a nontraditional field and addressing the need for more employees in the field.

Senior engineering, STEM, and public health students at UTEP were placed into three-month internship opportunities with Schneider Electric from October to December 2024. Applicants were screened by Workforce Solutions Borderplex and the Borderplex Alliance, five UTEP engineering students began in October, completing a total of 240 hours of internship work.

About Schneider Electric

Schneider Electric is a global energy management and automation corporation that spearheads digital automation and energy management in more than 100 countries with a goal of increasing sustainability and efficiency in electrification and automation. Founded in 1836 in France, Schneider Electric expanded to El Paso in 2001. In 2025, they announced the establishment of a fifth factory in the region, set to bring in 500 new jobs to the region.

Funding: WIOA and Bank of America

Funding for this program came from a combination of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, federal legislation that promotes access to employment, training, and education, as well as funding from Bank of America.

Successes: Extending the Program



Of the five interns who participated in the program, three graduated with their degrees in December 2024. For the two who graduated in May 2025, the internship program was extended into the spring semester, allowing them to further build their skills and experiences prior to graduation.

Feedback from Schneider Electric Worksite

Feedback from Schneider Electric was overwhelmingly positive. Overall, Schneider Electric employees relayed the experience was positive and they were pleased with the quality of interns. While the corporation is currently in a hiring freeze, they are open to do the internship program again and potential expand it to more departments within the organization.

Final Employment Outcomes & Looking to the Future

Four out of the five found employment toward the end of their internship experience. One was hired at Schneider Electric while three others were hired at companies based outside of El Paso. The final intern is job searching and planning to continue with their education through graduate school. Looking to the future, Workforce Solutions Borderplex aims to continue to support internship and work-based learning opportunities for students in this field.