While our program looked different this year, we remained committed to supporting all students and giving them the resources to have a successful and fulfilling experience. This past summer, while many other organizations cancelled programming, Biotech Partners placed 42 students in 8-week, paid internship positions with various local bioscience organizations including Bayer, Agenus West, East Bay Municipal Utility District, and BioMarin.

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As this tumultuous year ends, Biotech Partners has been reflecting on the ways in which our students and staff overcame the new and unexpected challenges of 2020. When faced with the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, Biotech Partners prioritized health and safety as we pivoted to virtual learning experiences. And as communities organized to confront the civil unrest across our nation, we were motivated, more than ever, to continue addressing these racial injustices through our ongoing mission to provide underrepresented students with skills to succeed in the life sciences.

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As we approach the New Year, we are eager and ready to meet any challenge that comes our way as we look forward to placing nearly 60 students in summer internship positions in 2021!
Students engaged in internships that were remote, in-person, and on-site. With curriculum provided by Data Carpenters and training spearheaded by Susan McClatchy, PhD, students in the remote coding track learned critical coding skills relevant to bioinformatics. Interns put these new skills to use in their respective projects.

100% of BP students who applied were placed successfully and completed the 2020 summer internship*

The internship experience offered the opportunity to use and refine STEM skills and knowledge learned through Biotech Academy classes, to gain new STEM skills through, and to develop essential “soft skills”*

For some youth, the internship solidified their desire to pursue a biotech career path*

*Information provided by Rockman et al.

BP internships create a “line that connects schools to STEM institutions,” serving as a means to strengthen and diversify the local workforce by building “access to real opportunities to participate in the economic vitality of your own community.”

-Long-time Industry Partner*
It’s difficult for many of us to imagine what a fully virtual educational experience is like, especially for those in the last stretch of their high school career. Yet this year, teachers and students remained resilient as they adjusted to their new normal: Zoom lectures, at-home lab kits, virtual office hours, and finding creative ways to forge connections with one another through a screen.

The BCI group along with Program Manager Dr. Jennifer Hugenberger, continue to explore the world of Bioscience. This Fall the BCI students collaborated with Benchling and Dr. Johnny Truong on a project exploring taste receptors and the TAS2R38 gene. New interns at Bayer, Luis Emmanuel Ceja and Anshdeep Chhabra started in the QC Sterility and Virology Department, while three students, Kaushal Sharma, Nadia Sanchez, and Eesha Nilkanth started in positions at 4DMT in the Biomarkers, Discovery and Engineering, and Bioinformatics Groups.

Stay tuned for further updates in 2021, as these bright scholars continue to make advances in STEM fields and in their education.
a new normal and preparing for 2021

This year, more than ever, we are reminded of the importance of a strong healthcare system. At Biotech Partners, we are committed to our investment in our diverse students and equipping them with the tools and skills that are needed to ensure that they have equal opportunity to higher education and jobs within the life sciences.

Established in 1993 as part of a 30-year development agreement between Bayer and the City of Berkeley, Biotech Partners has remained committed to carrying out our mission of providing educational opportunities to underserved youth with personal, academic and professional development experiences that increase their participation in higher education and access to fulfilling science careers. As the program nears its 28th year, we’re moving forward with hope and excitement as we begin our work to secure our role as Bayer’s Community Benefit in the City of Berkeley for another 30 years.

CALLING ALL BIOTECH PARTNERS ALUMNI

We need your help! As we look towards re-establishing our program as Bayer’s community benefit in Berkeley, we need alumni, like you, to support us through sharing your experience and the impact it has had on your life beyond your participation in the program. If you can support us in this capacity, please visit tinyurl.com/BPAAlum to complete a short form with your current contact information. We hope to reconnect and hear from you soon!
From all of us at Biotech Partners, we wish you a happy and healthy holiday season!