



## Alabama economic developers create internship program

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By **Michael Tomberlin** -- The Birmingham News

Alabama economic developers are becoming more aggressive in finding ways to replenish their ranks as more professionals retire or pass away.

The **Economic Development Association of Alabama** announced plans for a pilot economic development internship program to start this summer at its winter conference at the Renaissance Hotel & Spa in Montgomery on Wednesday.

Five interns will be selected from applicants from the University of Alabama, Auburn University, the University of South Alabama, UAH and Troy University.

Students will intern at the **Alabama Development Office**, **Alabama Power**, the **Economic Development Partnership of Alabama**, **PowerSouth** and the **North Alabama Industrial Development Association**.

**Hollie Pegg**, senior project manager with ADO, said the internships will pay \$10 per hour for 10 weeks.

**AIDT** is helping to screen applicants for the pilot program. She said the program can be expanded to include more universities and companies.

**Shane Kearney**, project manager with Alabama Power, said the goal is to create a pipeline of new economic development professionals.

"In a few years, we're going to have a major brain drain in this state," he said. "We're going to be losing hundreds of years of experience and institutional knowledge."

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