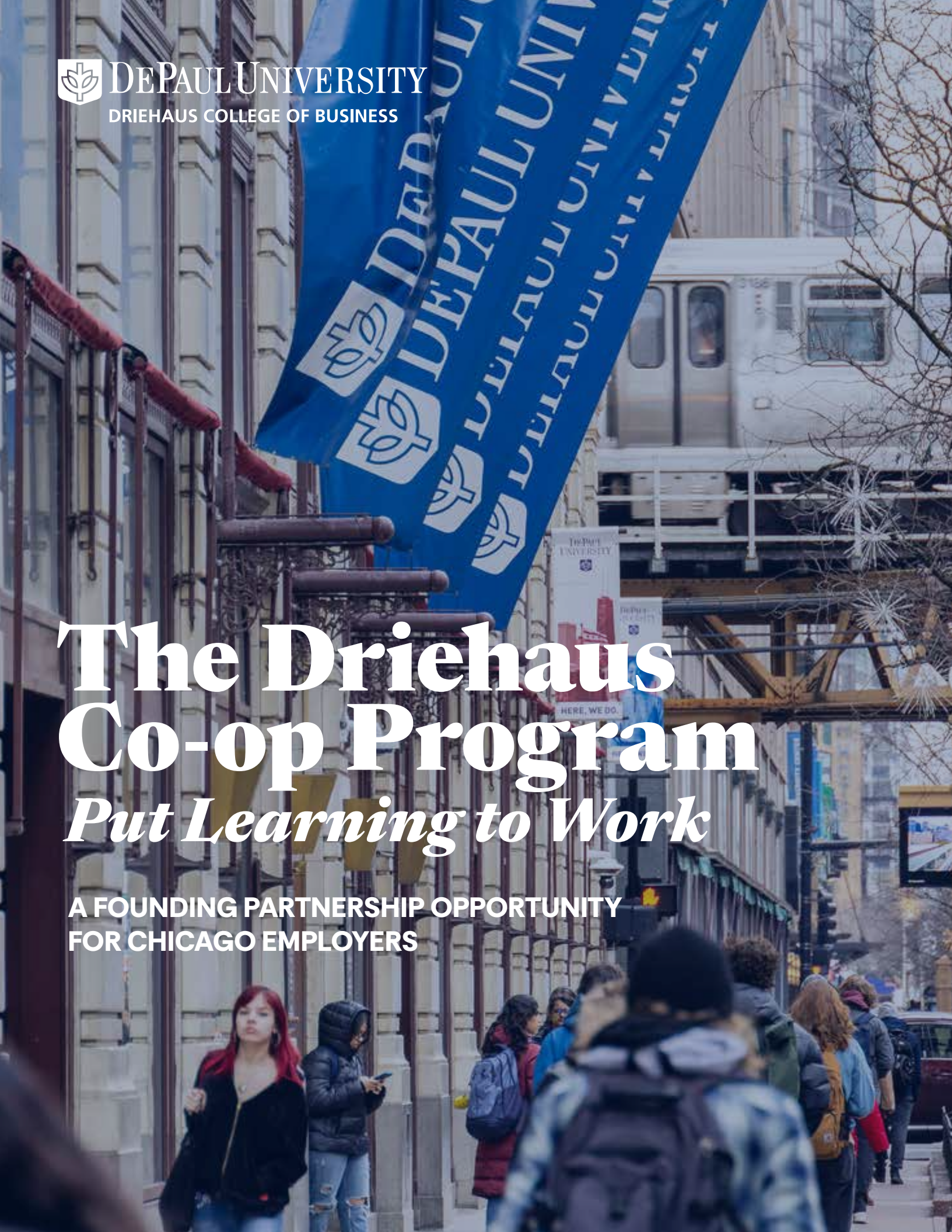
DePaul University
DRIEHAUS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

The Driehaus Co-op Program

Put Learning to Work

A FOUNDING PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR CHICAGO EMPLOYERS





Founding Corporate Partners

We are inviting a select group of Chicago-area employers to help shape the program from the ground up and gain priority access to its talent pipeline.

THE OPPORTUNITY

DePaul's Driehaus College of Business is launching a required, curriculum-integrated undergraduate co-op program, **the first of its kind among undergraduate business programs in the Chicagoland area**. Students will step into six-month, paid professional roles with leading employers, supported by Driehaus faculty and staff through structured career preparation, clearly defined learning outcomes, and ongoing integration of their workplace experience with their academic learning.

A new talent model for an AI-enabled economy

Six-month, paid professional experiences will connect prepared business students with meaningful work, giving employers sustained project capacity, a stronger early-career talent pipeline, and a more informed path to hiring.

Companies that partner with Driehaus gain access to a distinctive source of Chicago talent. Approximately 60% of Driehaus graduates remain in Chicagoland, creating a sustained local pipeline of professionals who can build long-term careers with partner organizations. Our students are highly diverse, ambitious, and hardworking; more than 40% are first-generation college students. Because the Driehaus curriculum emphasizes practical skills, applied problem-solving, and experiential learning, students are prepared to learn quickly and contribute meaningfully in the workplace.

At full scale, the program is expected to support 800 student placements annually, expanding employers' access to this talent and strengthening Chicago's early-career workforce.

DRIEHAUS AT A GLANCE

AACSB-accredited
Placing Driehaus among the top 5% of business schools globally

Top fifteen
Undergraduate entrepreneurship program (Princeton Review)

5,500+ students
One of the largest business schools in the Midwest

#88 nationally
Undergraduate business program (U.S. News & World Report)

#52 nationally
Accounting and finance program (Niche college rankings)

Chicago-connected
A deep alumni network spanning every major industry sector

WHY NOW?

Rapid technological change, shifting workforce needs, and evolving customer expectations are reshaping business. These forces are changing not only how organizations operate, but also employer expectations for new hires. Business graduates must enter the workplace ready to contribute and grow as they learn. They must be able to translate academic knowledge into action, solve unfamiliar problems, exercise sound judgment, communicate and collaborate effectively, and adapt to new tools and priorities. The co-op experience helps students build these capabilities while giving employers access to better-prepared, early-career talent.



DRIEHAUS' RESPONSE

1 A future-ready curriculum

Students learn business fundamentals and build practical skills in our award-winning business curriculum, while strengthening critical thinking, communication, ethical judgment, adaptability, and technological fluency — including responsible use of AI — for a rapidly changing workplace.

2 A required co-op experience

Students apply these capabilities in authentic professional settings before graduation — inside real organizations, on real problems, with real expectations and consequences.

HOW DOES A CO-OP DIFFER FROM AN INTERNSHIP?

A strategic talent partnership – not a larger internship program

	DRIEHAUS CO-OP	INTERNSHIP
ACCESS	Prepared, AI-fluent business talent ready to contribute.	Early-career talent with varying levels of preparation.
CAPACITY	Six months to own projects and deliver meaningful results.	Short-term support focused on defined tasks.
CONFIDENCE	More time to assess performance, fit, and hiring potential.	A limited window to evaluate long-term fit.
INFLUENCE	Shape curriculum, access talent early, and strengthen your brand.	Build awareness through traditional campus recruiting.
PRODUCTIVITY	More productive time after onboarding and training to deliver completed outcomes.	The placement may end as productivity begins to accelerate.
INTEGRATION	Time to build relation-ships and become part of the team.	Valuable exposure with less time for full integration.

THE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Mandatory
Curriculum-integrated for undergraduate business students

Six months
Long enough to onboard, contribute, and deliver meaningful work

Substantial & paid
A significant professional role, typically 20-40 hours a week depending on business needs

Employer-aligned
Role scope and learning outcomes defined with corporate partners

FY28 onward
Pilot placements begin with a select group of Founding Partners

800 participants at scale
A sustained annual talent pipeline as the program grows

WHAT MAKES THE MODEL DISTINCTIVE?

Meaningful work
Roles are built around substantive projects and clear expectations.

Structured partnership
Our employer relations team works with you on role scope and learning outcomes.

Long-term pipeline
Partners gain sustained access to future graduates prepared for an AI-enabled workplace.



FOUNDING PARTNERSHIP

As a Founding Corporate Partner, your organization will do more than host co-op students. You will help build a durable bridge between business education and the evolving workplace — while developing a talent pipeline aligned with your future needs.

The six-month co-op model is designed to create value for employers during the program and well beyond it. Partners gain meaningful capacity, earlier access to prepared talent, and a stronger basis for making entry-level hiring decisions. Students earn academic credit with built-in learning objectives and curriculum integration.

WHAT WE ASK OF FOUNDING PARTNERS

- Commit to hosting 2-5 co-op students in the pilot years, beginning in summer 2027, and scale as the program grows.
- Provide paid, six-month placements where students are treated like full-time employees with meaningful project work, supervision, and clear expectations.
- Partner with our employer relations team to define role scope and student learning outcomes.
- Engage periodically with faculty and students through the college.

WHAT FOUNDING PARTNERS RECEIVE

- Founding Partner recognition and first-mover advantage in a high-potential Chicago talent partnership.
- Priority access to students in the co-op program and future graduates; you decide who you want to hire.
- Input into curriculum alignment and the capabilities students develop.
- Brand visibility through classroom engagement, executive speakers, and co-branded programming.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE DRIEHAUS CO-OP PROGRAM?

TAKE THE FIRST STEP ...

Connect with our Career Management Center team to explore how a co-op student could support your organization! You do not need to have a position fully defined. We will help you identify suitable functions, roles, and specific next steps.

CONTACT US!

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Your organization gains value now and builds its future workforce at the same time. That combination is what makes the co-op a strategic business partnership rather than a transactional recruiting activity.