

AKAMAI

Fact Sheet



Outcomes from 13 Years of Partnering with Telescopes

The Akamai Internship Program

The Akamai Internship Program provides college students with summer projects at observatories and companies in Hawai'i. The goal of the program is to advance local students into the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce, and increase the participation of underrepresented groups in STEM. Akamai uses a unique model that enables the current workforce to train the next generation with the skills and experience to be successful.

265 college students from Hawaii have participated in Akamai

Akamai accepts college students from Hawaii (80% graduated from a Hawaii high school or born in Hawaii), and is committed to including students from groups underrepresented and/or under-served in STEM. Demographics of Akamai alumni:

41% Women

52% Underrepresented Minority

23% Native Hawaiian

37% Community College

At least 140 Akamai alumni are now in science or technology jobs

Akamai provides work experience and focuses on developing important professional skills. The outcome is that Akamai alumni get hired. **30 Akamai alumni started new jobs in 2014!**

Akamai alumni attribute their success to the Akamai program

- *When my mentor from that internship heard I was graduating, he offered me a job!*
- *After obtaining my degree, it was at an Akamai alumni event where I met a representative from Akimeka, which led directly to obtaining a job at the local software development company.*
- *Communication, presentations, teamwork, problem solving, and troubleshooting are invaluable to my every day responsibilities as an Electrical Engineer. The Akamai program emphasized all of these skills and prepared me to succeed in a STEM career.*
- *I would not have this job with the Smithsonian had I not been accepted into the Akamai internship program.*
- *I use skills I learned from my internship on my daily job.*

~80% of Akamai alumni are retained in STEM

Nationally, STEM college degree completion rates are as low as 20-40%. In Akamai, students of all backgrounds persist at high rates, including those from backgrounds that have very high STEM attrition rates nationally. Akamai has tracked more than 90% of alumni and found that 80% are still in STEM.

Akamai has deep roots and a long history with telescopes

- Originally developed by the NSF Center for Adaptive Optics at UC Santa Cruz in 2002.
- Every major telescope in Hawaii, and many tech companies, have participated.
- Hundreds of volunteers from telescopes and companies have volunteered as mentors.
- Funding for the 2015 Akamai program will come from: Thirty Meter Telescope International Observatory, Air Force Office of Scientific Research, University of Hawaii System, Hawaii Community Foundation, National Science Foundation (AST#1347767), and the Daniel K Inouye Solar Telescope.
- TIO began funding Akamai in 2009, when the program had a budget shortfall, and has continued with increasing support each year. In 2015 TIO became the major funding source of Akamai.

Internships at telescopes launch students into *jobs at telescopes and beyond*



Amber Imai, from Hawaii Island, interned at CFHT, now works at Hawaii Space Flight Lab, Oahu.



Sean Jones, from Oahu, interned at Keck, now works as an engineer at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Oahu.



Yu Xian He, from Oahu, interned at CFHT, is now works in IT for Univ. of Hawaii, Oahu.



Anthony Sylvester, from Hawaii Island, interned at CFHT and at TMT, now is co-founder of a robotics company, Oahu.

Internships at telescopes launch students into *graduate school*



Devin Chu, from Hawaii Island, interned at Gemini, is now an astronomy graduate student at UCLA.



Marissa Loving, from Hawaii Island, interned at Gemini, now is a graduate student in mathematics at Univ. of Illinois.



Stacy Sueoka, from Kauai, interned at the Tetrax, then at the National Solar Observatory, is now a graduate student in optical sciences at Univ. of Arizona.



Megan Ansdell, from Oahu, interned at Gemini, now is a graduate student in astronomy at the IfA at UH Manoa.

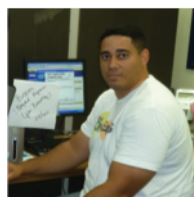


Darcy Bibb, from Maui, interned at TMT, now is a graduate student in electrical engineering at UH Manoa.

Internships with tech companies launch students into *tech jobs*



Kanoë Hardin, from Maui, Pacific Disaster Center, where she now works as a technical writer.



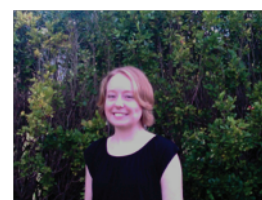
Carl Andrews, from Maui, interned at Akimeka, and has been hired on there as a software engineer.



Jasmine Yoshimoto, from Maui, interned at Tetrax on Maui, now is an engineer at SPAWAR Systems Center.



Jennifer Razo, from Maui, interned the Maui High Performance Computing Center on Maui, where she now works as a computer operator.



Heather Prinzing, from Kauai, interned at the IfA, is now an electronics technician at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai.