**Equity in Internships Stipend Program (EQUIP)**

**Outline & Description**

Maine Career Catalyst is a program of Educate Maine, a non-profit dedicated to championing career readiness by increasing the educational attainment of Maine people, enabling all students to succeed in postsecondary education and in the workplace. The EQUIP program is funded in partnership with FocusMaine, an organization committed to creating quality jobs in Maine’s most globally competitive and dynamic sectors including aquaculture, biopharma, and the food economy. This stipend program was created to support equity and increase experiential learning opportunity for women, BIPOC, and economically challenged undergraduate students in the signature sectors of FocusMaine to realize their career goals.

**Summary:**

The stipend is to be used for summer internships to help cover the cost of transportation, room and board, or other internship related costs.

**Eligibility:**

This program is available to BIPOC, first generation, and women in STEM students interning at Maine based companies building skills that will support the fields of Aquaculture, Biopharma, or the Food Economy.

**Timeline:**

Applications will open each year no later than March with award notifications in April. Awards will be paid out no later than July following successful onboarding for an internship at a Maine based company.

**Awards:**

All awards are in the amount of $1,500 stipends.

**Application:**

Available online at [www.mainecareercatalyst.org](http://www.mainecareercatalyst.org) and requires:

* Form requiring contact, personal data, and internship information
* Resume
* Letter of acceptance from the employer (if available)
* Personal statement (500 words) explaining why and how you would benefit from receiving the MCC Summer Internship Stipend
* Statement Tips:
	+ Professional aspirations
	+ How this award will help you achieve those aspirations
	+ What learning opportunities this experience will provide