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## Madison museum partners with Eleven+ to provide internships for underserved students of color

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Aicha Toure, left, and Jaynika Tunis are interning with the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts at the intersection of Main Street and Green Village Road in Madison this summer.

**MADISON** - The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts (METC) has partnered with Eleven+ to help underserved students gain important, paid work experience that will better prepare them for the job market when they complete their education.

Elevate to Even Plus Incorporated, abbreviated to its day-to-day operating name as Eleven+, is a start-up nonprofit which has developed what many think is a win-win situation. It aligns underserved students of color from low-income families with the large number of nonprofits operating in local and neighboring communities through a paid internship program.

The organization identifies sources of underutilized high achievers and partners with nonprofits to host summer internships. Additionally, Eleven+ raises funds and pays grants to each host so they can pay the interns' wages at \$15 per hour. The program maintains partnerships with hosting organizations in northern New Jersey, New London, Conn., and Cleveland.

The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts is partnering with Eleven+ for the summer of 2022 and is providing a paid internship experience for students from St. Elizabeth University in Morris Township and Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pa.

In a statement, the museum said it recognizes the importance of internships in providing students with valuable work experiences and opportunities for skill-building and networking that can improve prospects in education, work, and life for the participating students. The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts will also be providing a mentor to guide the intern through what is likely to be their first professional work experience.

"Our partnership with Eleven+ internships is truly a win-win endeavor," commented Deborah Farrar Starker, METC director. "The students receive real-world experience and meaningful paid work while METC is introduced to high-caliber students from the communities we serve. We're excited to be providing what should be a very meaningful experience for our interns."

Additional information about Eleven+ is available at [eleven-plus.org](http://eleven-plus.org) and about the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts at [www.metc.org](http://www.metc.org). For more information, contact Carolyn Parelli at [carolyn.parelli@eleven-plus.org](mailto:carolyn.parelli@eleven-plus.org).