

# SUMMER EXTERNSHIPS

Idaho businesses partner with educators to host an in-depth summer work-based professional learning experience, known as the Externship Program. Externs work 200 hours at host sites, learning firsthand how STEM/durable skills are applied in the workplace, so they can better educate their students on potential STEM pathways. Site hosts give back to the community and benefit from new perspectives and an extra hand, and both gain additional value from local professional networks.



## GOAL

Bridge knowledge gaps between classroom instruction and college/career counseling and on-the-ground career practice, benefiting students with understanding of how their learning connects with ex-citing, rewarding future job pathways.

## RESULTS

88 externs were placed with Idaho businesses and organizations in 2023, up from the 2019 pilot year baseline of 16 externs.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



And 60+ Idaho businesses and organizations!

**Work-based learning connections are strengthened with local organizations and businesses showcasing professional applications of skills and concepts taught in educational programming.**

### Employers:

- Provide a challenging work opportunity that contributes to company operations while providing authentic workplace experiences.
- Ensure educator sees broader career opportunities within the organization/industry and understands challenges of hiring and retaining employees.
- Provide the necessary training and ongoing mentoring needed for the extern to be successful.

### Educators:

- Be a certified Idaho K-12 public school teacher or a college and career advisor working in an Idaho public school, or teaching at the college level for an Idaho public institution. All externs must plan to return following summer break.
- Submit an application through the STEM AC and meet prospective employer(s) for interviews.
- Be able to work 200 hours over the summer and meet performance expectations.
- Share experiences with students, other educators and college and career advisors regionally.

"As I walk back into the classroom this fall, I have a new perspective on the importance of connecting my students with their community.

For my young students this means allowing them to see and experience their education in a way that is meaningful and real. I have already started collaborating with my facilitator at Toyota to bring in a car design unit with some guest teachers into our inventors' unit. I am excited to where else my new connections help me to take our learning experience."



-Kari Augustus Externship at Teton Toyota



**The IDAHO Externship Program**  
Idaho STEM AC and Workforce Development Council

**Idaho STEM Action Center**  
802 W Bannock St. Ste. 900  
Boise, ID 83702 208.332.1729  
stem.idaho.gov

**Halle Fultz**  
Externship Program Coordinator  
extern@stem.idaho.gov  
208.332.1726