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## Educator Externships Provide Insight

into Industry Workforce Needs  
in Eastern Idaho

Rigby, Idaho



The Idaho STEM Action Center Educator Externship Program is a summer program that brings educators into the workplace of an Idaho employer for a 200-hour on-site learning experience. In addition to gaining valuable industry experience and awareness about in-demand careers, educators receive a \$5,000 stipend and earn free professional development credit. Employers create awareness for their workforce needs within the education system, benefit from the work the educator provides, and develop a direct connection to the classroom. The Summer 2022 externship program placed externs at various Idaho locations including Teton Toyota and Idaho National Laboratory (INL) in Eastern Idaho.

### TETON TOYOTA EXTERNS LEARN ABOUT AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY JOBS

Rigby High School College & Career Advisors Britta Sedig and Kaylen Whitehead had externships at Teton Toyota in Idaho Falls.

Britta assisted the human resources department with ideas and contacts to help reach more students about job opportunities at Teton Toyota, whether it be in automotive maintenance, the sales department or office management. "Some of the ideas we have come up with to get in contact with interested students are offering a field trip to schools where their auto tech students can come and see the shop they could work in, as well as observe what a typical day at work would look like," Britta said. "Another way we are hoping to connect students to Teton Toyota's apprenticeship program is to visit high school campuses during lunch and set up a table to spread the word about the opportunities Teton Toyota offers to students who want to build experience in the automotive industry." She also conducted job interviews which she can relate to students through her role as a College & Career Advisor to help set student expectations for interviews and improve their interviewing skills.

Kaylen gained broad knowledge of how the Teton Auto group runs their business and how they value their employees. She helped create marketing content for social media. She learned the importance of team collaboration in planning social media posts and making the posts grab the viewers' attention.

Kaylen will be able to share her experiences with her students and communicate new options for potential careers. Kaylen related, "I've never worked in a business, or in a position that was like this before, so I had a narrow view of what different careers looked like. Because I not only have a better view of STEM, I also have a wider view of how different careers look, and what it takes to do them. That was my overall goal, and I'm excited to bring this view to my students."



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**STEM is about engaging with the world  
through creativity, collaboration,  
and innovation.**

**And STEM skills give Idahoans a  
competitive edge in the workplace;**  
preparing them for high-paying, high-  
demand careers in agriculture, healthcare,  
computer science, and more.

**STEM...Helping build a prosperous Idaho!**





# THANK YOU

to Idaho's Employers  
for Supporting Idaho's Students



## INL HIGHLIGHTS SITE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS IN CONSTRUCTION TRADES

Trevor Shepherd, an educator at the Career and Technical Education Center in Idaho Falls, was an extern at Idaho National Laboratory (INL) where he mentored local Career Technical Education (CTE) high school students who had internships at INL to learn about construction trades jobs at INL. For six weeks, Trevor and the students toured various INL locations to visit with the professionals working at those locations. They visited welders/fabricators, machinists, inspectors, draftsmen, engineers, electricians, firefighters/EMT's, controls and instrumentation techs, radiation techs, material scientists, research scientists, robotics radiation techs, carpenters, lineman, equipment operators, and mechanics. The craftspeople taught the students and Trevor about their jobs and let them get hands-on experience with the work or training they were doing. Trevor reported, "It was awesome to hear their first-hand experiences of where they came from and how they got to the job they were at. It helped these students and me to see the relevance of trades and trade technology in the workforce today and the best route to get into these careers."

The STEM Action Center and Idaho Workforce Development Council, in partnership with Micron Technology, are expanding the Educator Externship Program in 2023! The expansion will provide the opportunity for more educators to work at an Idaho employer where they gain valuable industry experience and knowledge, helping them better prepare students for the world of work.

## Building STEM through:

### EDUCATOR ACCESS

to STEM professional development throughout Idaho.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

focused partnerships with industry and universities.

### STUDENT STEM COMPETITIONS

and camp support.

### Our Partners



STEM IS EVERYWHERE  
AND FOR EVERYONE!



### GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Your participation is essential for Idaho's success! There are many ways for you to engage with STEM education. Mentor. Volunteer. Donate. Partner. Help us build a path to prosperity for all Idahoans.

### LEARN MORE

To learn more about the STEM Action Center's strategies, success stories, and positive impacts in your community, email: [admin@stem.idaho.gov](mailto:admin@stem.idaho.gov) or visit [stem.idaho.gov](http://stem.idaho.gov).



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