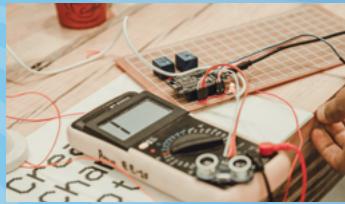


BRIGHT SPOT

EXTERNSHIPS OFFER INSIGHT ON CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION NEEDS FOR IDAHO BUSINESSES



SUMMER EXTERNSHIPS FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS AND CAREER COUNSELORS

Educators are integral to students' engagement in STEM and development of a world class STEM workforce. Building partnerships and pathways to local businesses ensures educators are meeting local talent requirements.

The STEM Action Center, in partnership with the Workforce Development Council, is providing K-12 classroom teachers and college and career advisors the opportunity to extern with local businesses over the summer. This program places selected externs with companies to work on projects related to their area of expertise and requires educators complete 200 hours of on-site, experiential learning. Externs earn \$5,000 and professional development credit, if they so choose. The goal of the program is to give educators the opportunity to expand their skill set so that they can better prepare students for life beyond high school. Here are examples of real-world skills needed by Idaho employers that educators will focus attention on in their classrooms.

Nathan Bushard, an electronics instructor at Meridian Technical Charter School, was an extern at G Zero CNC Machining in Meridian. Nathan got first-hand experience machining parts and the programming that integrates with the machine shop. Nathan commented in his blog that his supervisor, "stresses the importance of machining and he desires to inform students about this career path. Keys to this type of work are good math skills as machinists are constantly calculating and converting measurements. Good 3-dimensional geometry skills are important as well as they create parts from printed plans. Lastly, attention to detail is critical as you may have an order of 800 parts that all have to be made the same."

Michelle McCullough, a high school math teacher for Idaho Virtual Academy, was an extern at Bay Shore Systems, a foundation drilling equipment manufacturer, in Rathdrum. Michelle created videos with employees describing the various STEM jobs at the company including sales, engineering and design, cutting out parts, welding, painting, assembly, hydraulics, electrical, and equipment testing. These videos will help show students the variety of STEM jobs available in a small business such as Bay Shore Systems.



STEM is about *more* than Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. It's 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!





Externship Program

Idaho STEM AC and Workforce Development Council

Landon Gossack, an elementary educator in Potlatch, was an extern at Triple B Excavation in Potlatch. Landon's job was a machine operator clearing brush and trees that were impeding roadways. The job required reading digital maps, learning different tree species, forest health, basic road construction and maintenance, and fire prevention practices. His supervisor emphasized the importance of a strong work ethic as well as safety, machine maintenance and operation, and completing the work cleanly and neatly. All these points can be translated to classroom work as well as coaching students to persevere through tough tasks.

Externships give educators first-hand knowledge of applied-learning skills needed by Idaho employers as well as industry contacts. As one educator commented at the end of their externship, "The experience was invaluable. I was able to implement what I learned about machine vision into my Pre-Engineering Program. It added cutting-edge knowledge and experience that directly affects my students and kept me up-to-date on industry practices."

Building STEM through:

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to STEM professional development throughout Idaho.

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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 or visit stem.idaho.gov.



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