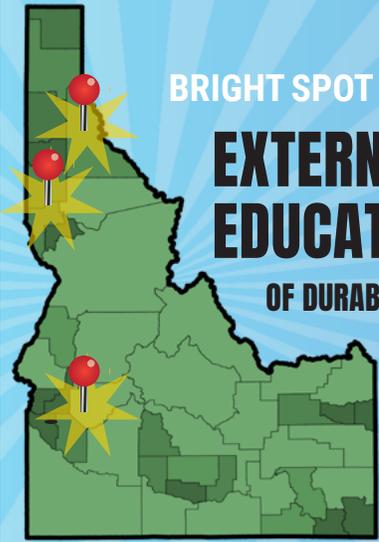


BRIGHT SPOT

# EXTERNSHIPS STRENGTHEN EDUCATOR UNDERSTANDING

OF DURABLE SKILLS NEEDED FOR IDAHO BUSINESSES



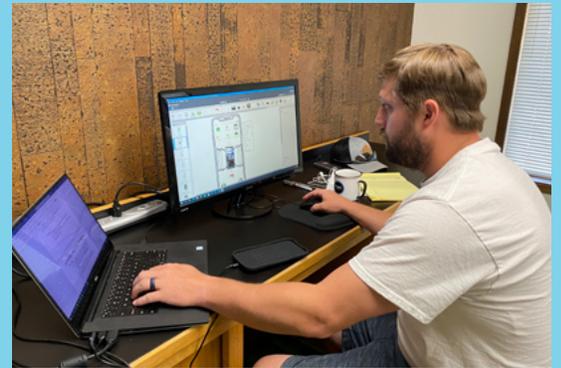
## SUMMER EXTERNSHIPS FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS AND CAREER COUNSELORS

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 some highlights of the durable skills needed by Idaho employers that educators will incorporate into their lesson plans.

Samuel Stafford, computer science educator at Boise's Borah High School, was an extern at JR Simplot Company in their software development team. Samuel also gained insight into communication tools used by the development team for collaboration. He learned the concept of "swarming" where team members come to the aid of a team member when they are having difficulty. He also learned the importance of workflow management tools, agile software development methodology, and documenting code for reuse. He was introduced to the concept of a "Big Hairy Audacious Goal" which you may not know you will accomplish when you start: you learn along the way and make mistakes and that is okay. As Samuel commented in his blog, "the process is just as important as the end result".

Jared Young, a 9th-12th grade teacher at Wallace Jr/Sr High School was an extern at Gravis Tech, a data analytics, data visualization, and technical communications business located in Wallace. Jared gained insight into communication tools used by Gravis Tech employees to interact with one another and sitting in on meetings provided knowledge on how tasks get communicated and work gets done. The experience also gave him ideas for lesson plans for his entrepreneurship class.



**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

Jean Millheim, a career counselor in Potlatch was an extern at the Idaho Workforce Development Council (WDC). She worked on a data mining project related to the WDC Launch program. Through her externship Jean learned new Excel features and how to create surveys with branching logic. She plans to create lessons on surveys and data mining using Excel as well as communicating WDC programs to students and businesses.

Two externs worked in project management on projects to help job seekers. Leigh Wilson, a 4th grade teacher in Potlatch, worked with the Idaho Veterans Chamber of Commerce to create a navigation model for members requesting services to help job seekers. Kelsey Kimber, a 6th grade teacher in Boise, worked on organizing jobs/career paths for St. Alphonsus making it easier for job seekers to search for jobs they qualify for, they are interested in, and positions they could grow into with further education, experience, and qualification.

Externships give educators first-hand knowledge of the durable skills needed by Idaho employers as well as industry contacts. As one educator commented at the end of their externship, "This experience offers an invaluable link between employers and the educators who help to prepare the next generation of laborers. If our country is going to become a leader in STEM we need to continue to build and enhance these types of relationships."

## 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).



**IDAHO  
STEM  
ACTION CENTER**

802 W. Bannock St., Suite 900  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
Phone: (208) 332-1729

**W** [stem.idaho.gov](http://stem.idaho.gov)

**f** [IdahoSTEMAC](https://www.facebook.com/IdahoSTEMAC)

**@** [idahostemac](https://www.instagram.com/idahostemac)

**T** [IdahoSTEMAC](https://www.tumblr.com/IdahoSTEMAC)