

# EDUCATOR EXTERNSHIP

SUMMER 2019

*"This experience gave me a much better idea of what career opportunities are out there for my students."*

## DISCOVER

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## BACKGROUND

The Educator Externship began in 2016 when the Associated General Contractors (AGC) Workforce Coalition, which included state wide industry leaders, and Willamette Education Service District (WP), began to look at the unfilled positions in the construction industry's high demand, high wage career fields.

The Oregon construction industry was interested in partnering with WP to provide Oregon educators with an opportunity to learn about the numerous career choices in the construction industry.

### This Educator Externship Program was Designed using the Discovery Project model, which had the following objectives:

- **Infuse** Real-World Relevance: Experience firsthand the skills, knowledge, and technologies expected of students as they enter the modern workplace.
- **Develop** Partnerships: Foster relationships with local business professionals in high-demand, high-wage industry sectors.
- **Foster** Multi-Disciplinary Connections: Explore curriculum, spaces, processes and/or systems that help students to make connections between academic and technical information.
- **Increase** Career Related Learning: Expose educators to various careers within the industry, in order to engage students in the skills needed to succeed in construction careers and help students identify career opportunities within the industry.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this externship is for educators to actively engage with industry in Oregon. Through various activities within the construction and manufacturing industries, educators will learn how their classroom content and learning strategies can align with workplace objectives. Educators will improve their pedagogical practices by incorporating new methods, labor market information, and employment skills that meet current industry standards.

After completing the educator externship program, participants will connect theory and practice, bringing an understanding of workplace practices and skills into the classroom. Some of these skills include problem solving, practical application of a theory, and leadership. Educators will use the skills gained to build lesson plans that increase student engagement and content relevance, and align goals of the construction industry with state and national educational standards. By participating in an externship program, educators will have knowledge and work experience to bring back to their teaching discipline, increasing relevance and relationship between the "world of work" and high school coursework.

The externships are designed to provide educators with a broad view of the various career opportunities that exist within the industry, and expose the educators not only to the many diverse jobs within an industry, but also to the skills used throughout the industry.



## BENEFITS FOR EDUCATORS

- With first-hand exposure, educators will design and implement classroom activities, projects and work-based learning opportunities that will add relevance and meaning to students' classroom learning.
- Educators will connect curriculum to real-world applications through a novel perspective gained from the externships.
- Educators will be better prepared to explain the value of what students are learning, through activities in which students work in groups, engage in cooperative learning, and solve open-ended real-life, solution-based problems.
- Educators who complete the Western Oregon University 805 Professional Development requirements receive four WOU credits. Tuition is paid for by our partners.
- Educators will build relationships with industry professionals that may provide information and support their courses and students with industry engagement.
- Educators will be better equipped to help students find the right pathway for themselves.

## EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

<b>WEEK ONE</b>	
DAY ONE	SAFETY TRAINING    ORIENTATION    APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS
DAY TWO	GENERAL CONSTRUCTION: ESTIMATING, PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND SITE TOURS
DAY THREE	HUMAN RESOURCES: BACK OFFICE, ACCOUNTING, MARKETING, PROCUREMENT, AND SITE TOURS
DAY FOUR	LOCAL SHADOW AND EXPLORE (LSE) DESIGNED TO WORK WITH A LOCAL COMPANY IN TEAMS OF 1-3; BUILD RELATIONSHIPS
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	
DAY ONE	HIGHWAY ROAD WORK OPERATORS  COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONNECTION: CERTIFICATES AND TWO YEAR DEGREES, TRANSFER DEGREES
DAY TWO	CONSTRUCTION, MANUFACTURING AND AG CONNECTIONS
DAY THREE	LOCAL SHADOW AND EXPLORE (LSE)
DAY FOUR	UNIVERSITY CONNECTION: BACHELORS PROGRAMS AND MASTERS EXTERNSHIP WRAP UP: LESSON PLANS, PRESENTATIONS, REFLECTIONS