



### Educator Externship Fact Sheet

An Externship is a unique professional development opportunity connecting the classroom to the workplace. The experience places educators with business to develop relationships with employers, observe work first hand, and gain valuable skills and knowledge that can be transferred back to the classroom through the development or modification of curriculum, projects or student/young adult activities.

Externships are paid or unpaid experiences which are time limited and have an evaluation component. They can be short term (one day) or long-term (six weeks or more). The experience includes structured roles, responsibilities and agreed-upon outcomes for both the educator and business partner. There is a defined recruitment process in place for both educator and business partner with pre- and post-activities designed to strengthen the experience. Protocols are used to establish the business/education connection with a clear communications structure to support each partner throughout the process.

As a professional development opportunity, externships also provide an option for up to five units of graduate level credit (one unit per ten hours) if university requirements are met. If pursuing a designated subject career technical education credential, the teacher Externship may be considered a qualifying Workplace Experience for which confirmation of hours may be provided.

#### **Externships are designed to:**

- Improve pedagogical practices by incorporating new methods, information, trends and current employment skills that meet industry standards
- Increase ability to connect theory with practice, and bring relevance to student/young adult learning
- Improve authentication of curriculum to better prepare today's students and young adults for tomorrow's careers
- Provide opportunities for educators and employers to have industry-specific constructive dialogue
- Enable business to actively support talent/workforce pipeline development in the K-14 system