



## NEWS RELEASE

### Contact:

Kathleen O'Leary, Coordinator for Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative

Email: koleary@intentional-strategies.com

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative Continues Innovative Teacher Externship Program to Enhance Career Readiness Education

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023 - Helena, MT** - The Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative is excited to announce the launch of its second year of hosting a Teacher Externship Program, a new initiative aimed at enhancing career readiness education across the state of Montana.

The Teacher Externship Program is designed to provide educators with hands-on experience in local businesses, industries, and organizations. Through this program, educators will gain a deeper understanding of the skills and knowledge needed for success in various careers and industries. In turn, they can bring this knowledge back to their classrooms and incorporate it into their curriculum to better prepare their students for the workforce.

"The Teacher Externship Program is an innovative way to help educators bring real-world experiences into the classroom," said Kathleen O'Leary, Coordinator of the Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative. "By spending time in local businesses and organizations, teachers will gain valuable insights into the skills and knowledge needed for success in various careers. We believe that this program will have a lasting impact on the future success of Montana's workforce."

Participants in the Teacher Externship Program will be matched with a local business or organization in their area and will spend three days on-site, working alongside industry professionals and gaining valuable experience in their field.

The Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative is a statewide initiative aimed at enhancing career readiness education and work-based learning opportunities for Montana's students. The Teacher Externship Program was initially developed in 2022 through a partnership between the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center and Reach Higher Montana. Due to growing interest, the Teacher Externship Program has expanded this year to include support from the Montana Office of Public Instruction. All industries or interested employers are encouraged to participate.

For more information on the Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative and/or to apply for the Teacher Externship Program, please visit [www.reachhighermontana.org/wblmt](http://www.reachhighermontana.org/wblmt). Initial screening of both employer and teacher applications begins March 3, 2023.

