

Externships for Teachers Program

Supporting Local Teachers Through Job Shadowing & Externship Experience

A WIOA-funded program from Workforce
Solutions Borderplex.

www.borderplexjobs.com

The Need for Externship Experience

Teachers are an invaluable asset in our society, leading new generations to bright futures. To better support their efforts and to help them gain hands-on experiences they can translate to classroom learning, Workforce Solutions Borderplex launched the Externships for Teachers program. Through this initiative, middle and high school teachers in El Paso County have the opportunity to complete externships with local employers in order to gain valuable skills, gain insight to today's working world, and to better aid their students' knowledge of certain industries in order to address gaps between the education system and the workforce system.

Through this opportunity, local teachers are incentivized and encouraged to find ways to integrate workforce knowledge into their lesson plans and curricula. Many of the externships are aligned with "hot jobs" based on economic and workforce data, which includes industries that offer a certain starting salary, a certain amount of growth, and currently have a good number of job openings and opportunities. For opportunities that don't align with certain industries, teachers still receive the opportunity to learn more about certain life and soft skills that can be incorporated into their teaching.

With a focus on career and technical education, teachers shadow employees in industries including utilities, auto repair, culinary arts, and more.

How it Works



Teachers to complete three-day externships with a local employer for a total of 20 hours. Once the 20 hours of job shadowing are completed, teachers in the program create lesson plans to use with their students while guidance counselors create a work plan to use with students.



Several teachers also took a one-day, eight-hour project management course through Extended University at the University of Texas at El Paso. Each participant also receives a \$1,000 stipend.



Externship opportunities are offered during intersessions and summer sessions so that teachers can attend and receive the stipend without there being a conflict of time or interest with their jobs.

Externship Industries & Partners



HVAC, Utilities, Vocational, Engineering

Southwest University, World System Builder, Western Tech, Fab Lab El Paso, Absolute HVAC Comfort, El Paso Electric, ECM International



Education

Montwood High School Counseling Department, The University of Texas at El Paso, Socorro ISD Central Office and IT Department, West Texas Driving Academy, El Paso Education Initiative, Inc.



City, Community Engagement, Public Servants

7J Performance Horses, Judge Rangel (171st Court), 911 Dispatch, City of El Paso, City of Socorro, Mission Valley Police Department, El Paso Police Academy, El Paso Museum of Art, Workforce Solutions Borderplex



Beauty, Cosmetology, Retail

2 Salons, 1 Barbershop, Skin Salon and Spa, For All Things Beauty, Starlight Cafe, Yuriria Bridal Management, Medme Service



Medical, Home Care

Piedras Rehabilitation Clinic, El Paso Sleep Center, Santa Fe Home Care, Ezra Elkayam MD & Carlos Fuentes DNP/FNP-BC



Business, Marketing, Sales, Real Estate

Chaveleeze Studio, Licon Dairym, ESC-19 Marketing, Casa Nissan, Grow Real Estate, Raiz Federal Credit Union, Warrior REalty, The Northeast Business Alliance,

Funding

The Teacher Externships program is operated through a grant given to Workforce Solutions Borderplex through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act program from the Texas Workforce Commission with the goal of giving teachers in the region real-world experience that can then be translated to their lesson plan design. There is no income minimum or government cost required.

The grant is provided under two groups:

- Group One: Career & Technical Education middle and high school teachers. This can include auto repair, culinary arts, and utilities such as HVAC, electrical, and plumbing.
- Group Two: General middle and high school teachers as well as guidance counselors.



About the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Program

The WIOA program offers job assistance and workforce development opportunities to jobseekers and to organizations supporting jobseekers in finding training, education, and support in their job search. Through WIOA, individuals and organizations can find financial aid, education and training, and employment resources to aid in job search efforts.



About the Texas Workforce Commission

The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency that provides workforce development opportunities to organizations and its constituents throughout the state of Texas. This is accomplished by providing unemployment benefits, high school diploma equivalency support, and connections to internships, externships, and apprenticeships throughout the state. The commission also provides grants to support initiatives like this one.

Program Goals



The goal of the program is to work with 100 middle and high school teachers from schools in the region to provide job shadowing and externship experience so that they may incorporate new skills and experiences into their curriculum, aligning with the demands of today's job market.

Extending Services to Rural Areas

To accommodate teachers working in school districts located outside of the city center, Workforce Solutions Borderplex made a dedicated effort to extend services to school districts located within rural areas, expanding the reach and success of the program.

Challenges Overcome

One challenge with the program was creating a timeline that worked with teachers' schedules. To overcome this, the Workforce Solutions Borderplex team offered the program during intersessions and other breaks for teachers throughout the school year.

Successes & Outcomes

Workforce Solutions Borderplex exceeded their goal of 100 teachers. A total of 106 teachers participated in the program.