

# EASTERN OREGON WORKS REPORT

## Summer Internship Program

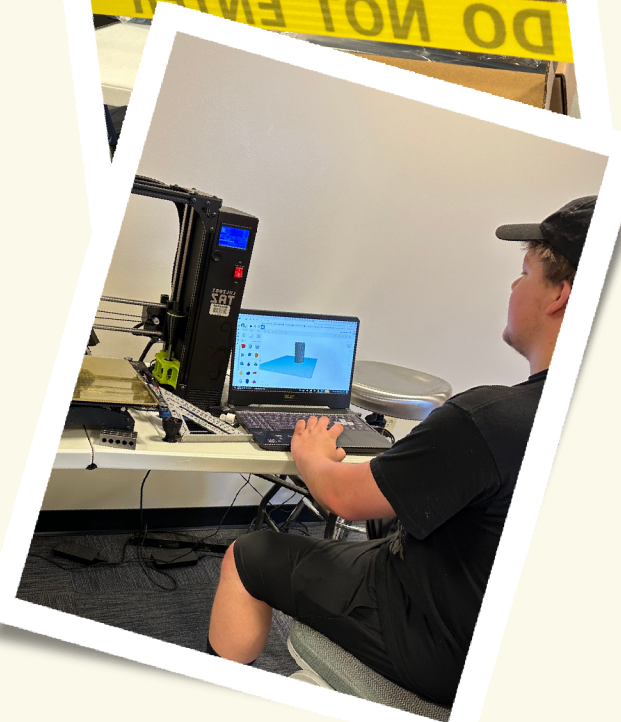


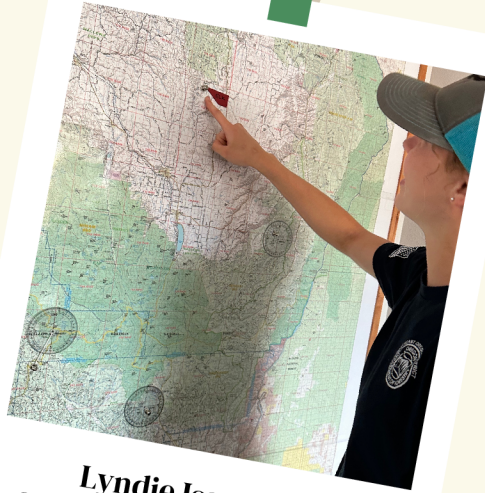
CONNECT

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**Lyndie Isaacson**  
Oregon Department of Forestry



**Reese Koyle**  
GO STEM

# About Eastern Oregon WORKS

Eastern Oregon Workforce Board (EOWB), through the EO WORKS initiative, builds upon the Oregon WORKS Model with a focused mission to grow, support, and sustain a skilled workforce in Eastern Oregon. EOWB is dedicated to fostering individual, community, and business prosperity through targeted workforce development initiatives.

The EO WORKS Internship Program, launched as a "grow your own" initiative, addresses a critical need voiced by local businesses: the challenge of finding candidates with essential basic work skills. In response to this gap, EOWB developed the program to connect local youth with job opportunities, ensuring that regional businesses have access to the talent they need to thrive.

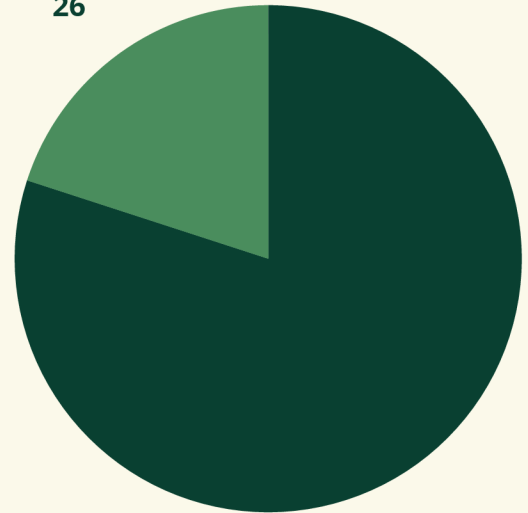
The internship model is designed not only to develop a skilled workforce but also to elevate local businesses and enhance the community's economic resilience. By introducing young talent to local opportunities, EOWB aims to retain and attract the next generation of skilled professionals, fueling both personal growth and the economic vitality of Eastern Oregon. In alignment with career-connected learning principles, this approach ensures that youth are better prepared to enter high-demand fields, contributing to long-term workforce sustainability.

# All Positions Filled

In 2024, the EO WORKS Internship Program generated considerable interest in Union and Umatilla Counties, with 104 individuals creating accounts to explore internship opportunities. Of these, 26 participants were successfully placed in internships, gaining valuable work experience.

For those not selected but still seeking employment or training, EOWB actively referred them to WorkSource Oregon for additional job services and resources. Despite the strong interest, the program faced a shortage of employers to meet the demand. In 2025, EOWB aims to address this challenge by increasing efforts to recruit more employers to participate in the program.

Internships  
26



Applications Submitted  
104



Every intern has access to their own mentor!



The program offered over **\$2600** in support services like fuel gift cards.



The interns worked a total of **4125 hours** this summer.

# The Internships

The interns engaged in a variety of projects throughout the EO WORKS Internship Program, including marketing initiatives, wildlife tagging, creating 3D models, exploring optometry, and teaching classes. Several participants secured full-time positions, while others arranged to return the following summer. These opportunities provided hands-on experience in local industries and STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math—fields. STEM skills are vital for preparing youth for high-demand, innovative careers, ensuring both individual success and the economic growth of Eastern Oregon.



“ I would definitely recommend this experience to all my friends. It’s a fantastic way to get real world job experience and earn some money over the summer. There are a variety of workforce partners sponsoring internship in different industries to fit your interests. ”

- Roy Jones

Oregon UAS Accelerator Intern, 2024  
(Unmanned Aircraft System)



Skyler Lee  
Catherine Creek Community Center



Colter and Skeen  
Grand Ronde Model Watershed



Kylie Temple  
IRZ Engineering and Consulting

# The Employers

Most EO WORKS Host Sites employ interns through a direct-hire relationship, paying a minimum of \$15 per hour. EOWB actively seeks a diverse range of Host Sites across various sectors and business sizes. In 2024, EOWB coordinated 26 intern placements across 16 Host Sites, with wages ranging from \$15 to \$16.65 per hour. Two interns continued with their employers beyond the program, exemplifying the success of the "grow your own" model in Eastern Oregon.

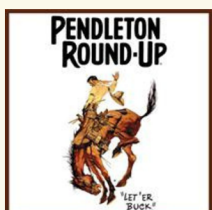
“

Very thankful for this program! Sets clear goals, expectations and provides really good support to employer and intern.

-EO WORKS Employer, 2024

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## 2024 Host Sites



# Professional Development Workshop

EOWB was fortunate to have many partners collaborate to prepare interns during the full day orientation. The session covered a range of essential topics, including soft skills, income basics, mental health, conflict resolution, and more, ensuring interns were equipped for success in their placements.

1 out of 5 interns faced significant barriers to employment



“

**“It’s been really fun. And the people here are super, super helpful”**

**-Adam, GO STEM**

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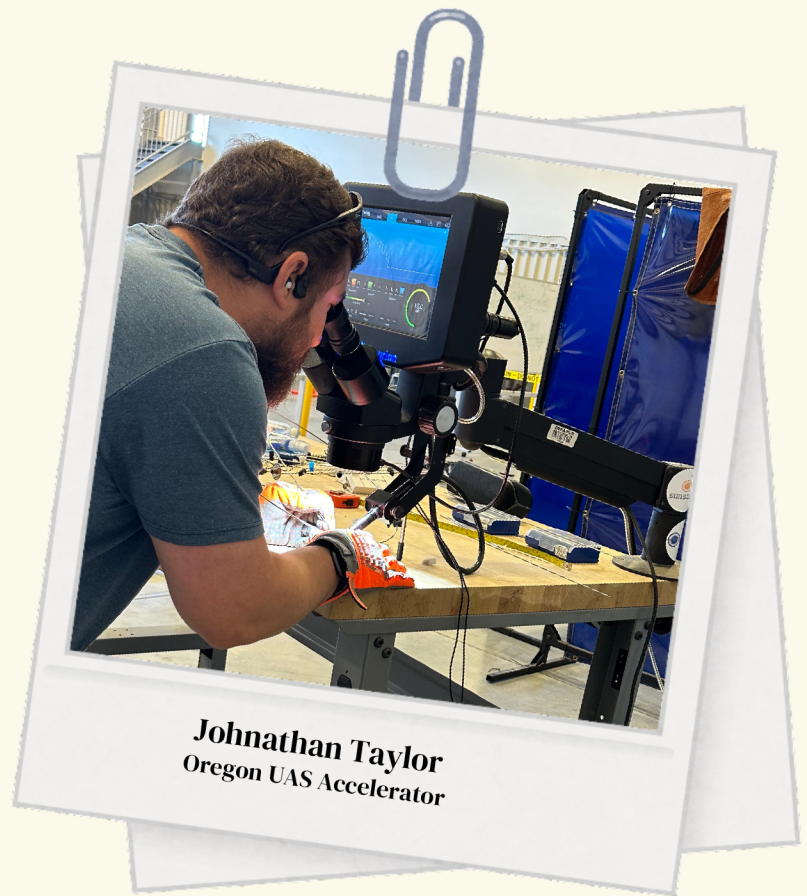
## 2024 Professional Development Partners



# THANK YOU

Eastern Oregon Workforce Board (EOWB) has made a significant impact and is now planning to expand into additional counties across Eastern Oregon. EOWB is excited to broaden opportunities for young people to enter the workforce and establish strong connections within local communities.

EOWB extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's success and to those who are supporting the continued growth of the program.



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