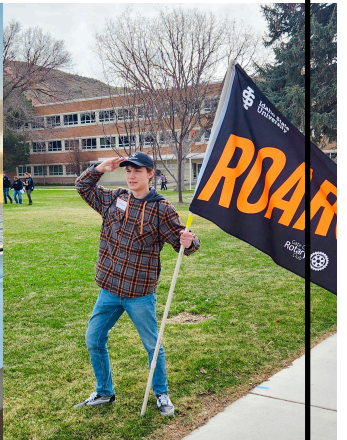




Idaho State
University

Career Path Intern Of The Month



2025

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About Career Path Internships

The CPI Program is a paid internship initiative established in 2010 that provides students with practical experience in their field of study or relevant internships aligned with their career aspirations. Participants in the program typically earn higher wages, achieve better job placement rates, and become more effective employees compared to their peers. The program facilitates connections to internships that bolster students' academic and professional growth, including opportunities with local organizations and on-campus positions. The CPI Intern of the Month award recognizes interns who excel in their roles, featuring winners in ISU communications and on social media, along with a Bengal Dining voucher.



January

Brynli Nalder is a senior Psychology major who holds a Peer Advisor CPI intern with the Office of Academic Advising. As a Peer Advisor, Nalder assists and supports students one-on-one in reaching their academic goals. This includes advising during New Student Orientations as well as performing student outreach.

"Brynli's willingness to assist students with their questions, concerns, or problems is apparent with each interaction she has," explained Karly Olsen, Management Assistant for the Office of Enrollment Management and Nalder's colleague. "Students feel comfortable and confident opening up to her and they trust her recommendations."

Nalder's natural talent of advising has not only helped her stay engaged in her academic program, it has also helped shape her professional path going forward.

"After graduation I would like to work as a professional academic advisor and eventually go on to receive my Master's degree," stated Nalder. "This internship has allowed me to gain clarity on my future career plans."

A Pocatello, Idaho native, Nalder will graduate in May 2025. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and cats as well as enjoying the great outdoors.



February

Dakota Clark is a senior Mechanical Engineering student working as a space planning intern in the ISU Facilities Architecture Department. Clark's duties involve assisting the University Architect and University Planner with the day-to-day operations of the department including using AutoCAD 3D modeling software to work on drafting projects and preliminary drawings as well as conducting field studies and surveys on the spaces on campus.

"One of the highlights of my internship has been gaining insight into the inner workings of Idaho State University and engaging with individuals from various departments," stated Clark. "I have gained valuable experience in drafting, data management, spatial analysis, and project management which will undoubtedly benefit me in my future career."

In addition to the technical aspects of his internship, Clark is also gaining valuable durable skills such as communication, problem-solving, teamwork, and time management.

"Space on campus can be a very sensitive topic," explained Rafael Cabello Sandoval, ISU's University Planner and Clark's supervisor. "Dakota has repeatedly proven that he has everything it takes to provide quality customer service, finding the balance between addressing customer demands, ISU's leadership strategic goals, and following our Space Allocation Policy."



Originally from Rigby, Idaho, Clark expects to graduate in May 2025. After completing his degree, he hopes to pursue a career in mechanical engineering design, where he can apply his skills and knowledge to make a positive impact on the community. In his spare time, Clark enjoys spending time outdoors, engaging in activities such as skiing, backpacking, running, and rock climbing.

March



Soleina Bess is an Early Childhood Care and Education major interning at the Pocatello Valley Montessori School. Bess works with children aged 18 months to 3 years old. Her internship duties include teaching toddlers, planning activities and lessons, and nurturing relationships with her students.

"A favorite part of my job is when the toddlers come into the classroom excited to see me and give me a big hug with a smile on their face," explained Bess. "Caring for children and their needs isn't something you can learn from watching others or reading a book. It really is about hands-on experiences."

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"Soli has gone above and beyond learning the Montessori curriculum to ensure the students get the best experience," stated MinDee Bills, lead teacher for the toddler program and Bess' supervisor. "She shows up every day eager and willing to learn and teach the students and I know that she is going to be very successful in her endeavors when she finishes school!"

Originally from Idaho Falls, Idaho, Bess will graduate this spring with a Early Childhood Care and Education Intermediate Technical Certificate and Associate's degree. She will continue on with a Blended Early Childhood Care and Education Bachelor's degree in the fall 2025. In her spare time, Bess enjoys crocheting, hiking, doing puzzles, and reading.

April

Danika Averett is a senior Finance and Accounting student who works as a financial assistant intern with Idaho State University's Facilities Services. Averett's duties included a long-term utility analysis for the university, covering water, sewer, garbage, gas, and electric services. This analysis provided University Leadership with potential efficiency improvements for the campus.

"This internship has helped me grow my communication and teamwork skills," stated Averett. "I've worked with amazing people who've shown me the kind of workplace I aspire to join."

Averett's internship work will live on in Facilities Services even after her internship concludes.

"Danika's analysis and her presentation proved useful in finding potential areas of efficiency," explained Lisa Wise, University Business Officer for Facilities Services and Averett's supervisor.

"We will be able to use this information moving forward in our efforts."

A Pocatello native, Averett will graduate in the fall of 2026 and will pursue a CPA certification. In her spare time she enjoys hanging out with friends and family, hiking, hammocking, playing the piano, reading, and eating good food.



May

Evalynn Dance is a Visual Communications major interning at KISU, ISU's local radio station. Dance's initial duties include supporting the work of KISU's newscasters and occasionally filling in on-air when needed. As her internship progressed, and KISU's needs changed, Dance has moved into a newscaster role and hasn't looked back.

"She really stepped-up when KISU was in need and has shown professional-level maturity, confidence, reliability, and talent," stated Jamon Anderson, KISU's General Manager and Dance's supervisor. "Her work exceeds expectations and provides tremendous value for KISU and our community."

Dance has learned a lot during her internship at KISU.

"Since the news airs every day, I've had to learn how to get things done fast," explained Dance. "Even when I'm exhausted or have a packed day, I still show up and get the news recorded, which has really helped me build discipline and manage deadlines professionally."

Dance expects to graduate in the spring of 2027. In her spare time, she loves to be outside hiking, running, camping, or swimming.



June



Kobe Harris is a Computer Aided Design Drafting Technology student who currently holds a CPI internship with Idaho State University's Facilities Department. Harris' duties include creating and updating floor plans for the University. His contributions have played a critical role in the success of ISU's ongoing building project renovations and developments and his efforts have not gone unnoticed.

"Kobe's ability to adapt and integrate new knowledge into his workflow has greatly improved the efficiency and accuracy of the tasks assigned to him," stated Ed Isla, ISU's Architectural Drafter and Harris's supervisor. "His work consistently meets or exceeds expectations, and he has proven to be a reliable team member who works well with both myself and our project managers."

Harris has learned new skills and techniques while also benefiting the Facilities Department.

"One highlight of my internship was being part of a large custodial project that was expected to take around two months," explained Harris. "With determination and a little caffeine, I was able to help my supervisor knock it out two weeks ahead of schedule."

Originally from St. Anthony, Harris graduated in May 2025. His post-college goals include working at INL, marrying his highschool sweetheart and becoming a pro bowler in his spare time.

July



Grace Cain is a biology major who currently holds a CPI internship with the Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology Lab at Idaho State University. Cain's duties included organizing a weekly teaching plan for the lab. In addition to preparatory work, Cain also demonstrated her teaching skills.

"Grace was committed to guaranteeing her students would receive the highest level of guidance and support they needed to succeed," stated Susan Marion, Biological Sciences Department Associate Lecturer and Cain's supervisor. "Grace ran multiple optional open labs and routinely responded to students' questions outside of scheduled class time by emailing students information that would help them understand and learn the anatomy and physiology."

Working in an anatomy and physiology lab may not be everyone's ideal internship site, but it turned out to be a perfect fit for Cain.

"One of my favorite highlights of this position is getting to meet so many bright students who register for the lab each semester," explained Cain. "There is nothing more exciting than getting to meet other students who are also passionate about anatomy and willing to learn and have fun in the lab!"

Originally from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Cain will graduate in May 2026. After graduation, she plans to attend medical school and pursue a pathology residency. In her spare time Cain enjoys cross-stitch and doing nails.

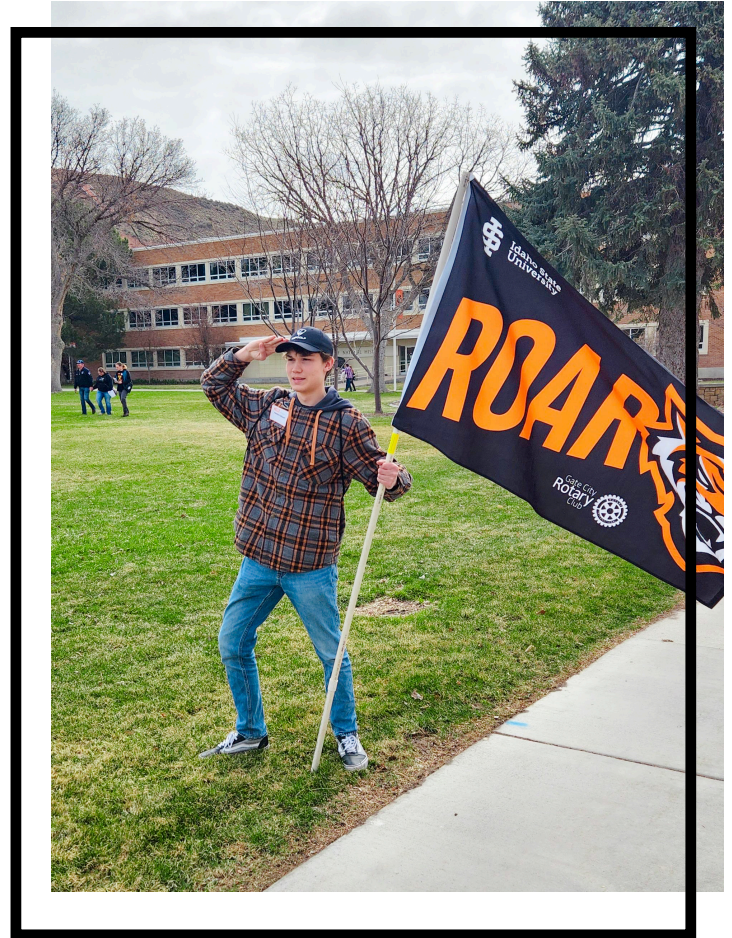
August

Hawkins Stewart is a Communication major currently serving as the Event and Graphic Media Intern for the College of Arts and Letters. In his role, Stewart contributes to a wide variety of projects, including event photography, video production, newsletter design, content management, and student video content creation.

"Hawkins is incredibly reliable, a great communicator, and remarkably flexible," stated Elisabeth Curtis, Marketing and Communications Manager for the College of Arts and Letters and Stewart's supervisor. "His work has made a real impact on our college's communications efforts, and I'm grateful for his dedication and contributions."

During his internship, Stewart and Curtis have been able to shape and develop his role to allow him to gain new experiences and build skills for his future.

"This internship has helped me put myself out there and work with people in ways I have not before," explained Stewart. "I have become a better content producer and editor, which will help me with future communication-centered jobs."



Originally from Nampa, Idaho, Stewart plans on remaining in the area to pursue professional work. In his spare time, he enjoys listening to music and watching movies.

September



Emily Jones is a sophomore Communication major interning with the Idaho State University Alumni Association. Jones manages the ISU Alumni Association social media accounts with care and creativity, ensuring the content reflects the pride and energy of the Bengal community.

"Whether she's crafting engaging posts, designing eye-catching graphics, or assisting with digital communications, Emily's work exceeds expectations," stated Amy Dressel, Executive Director of Alumni Engagement and Jones' supervisor. "Her interactions with alumni, staff, leaders, and the community reflect not only her professionalism but her genuine pride in representing Idaho State University."

Jones has also had the opportunity to partake in the Alumni Association's events including the Shoshone Bannock Festival, Bengal Giving Day, and the upcoming homecoming celebrations. These experiences have given Jones skills that she will use well past her internship.

I have learned how to be a better team member along with completing work more effectively," explained Jones. "I have been able to learn how to complete assignments in a timely manner, and have also learned how to express my opinions in team meetings and find my voice in the workplace."

Originally from Idaho Falls, Idaho, Jones expects to graduate in May 2027. In her spare time, Jones acts as the Vice President of the sorority and enjoys traveling and pickleball.

October

Grace Stander is double-majoring in Speech-Language Pathology and Anthropology with an emphasis on Linguistics, who has been working in the Anthropology & Languages Department. In her internship, Stander has been learning how to catalog and process library books, handle and describe archival materials, and enter, code, and analyze survey data.

"Grace recently presented the results of her work on a research project comparing the motivations of heritage and non-heritage learners of Spanish at ISU at the Idaho Conference for Undergraduate Research in July," stated Dr. Liz Redd, Department of Anthropology Assistant Professor and Stander's supervisor. "Grace is exceptionally ready to learn new skills and faces challenges head-on."

Stander's internship experience has provided her with skills and knowledge that will help her navigate her professional path.

"I have learned skills related to research and gotten research experience which is invaluable to me because I want to do research professionally in the future," explained Stander. "I have also learned that I want to work in linguistics for sure because of the experience I am getting with the field."

A Pocatello native, Stander will graduate in May 2029. After graduation, she hopes to attend graduate school and potentially pursue a Ph.D. In her spare time, Stander enjoys dancing, reading, and writing stories.



November

Susie Liston is an accounting and finance major interning for the Student Engagement Office. In her internship, Liston's responsibilities include cash handling, transaction tracking for club budgets and department indexes.

"Susie has quickly excelled in her internship, demonstrating strong initiative, reliability, and a commitment to learning," stated Theresa Brissette, Program Specialist in the Student Engagement Office and Liston's supervisor. "Her precision in financial tracking and willingness to expand her skills make her an outstanding contributor to the team."

In addition to her daily tasks, Liston is currently working on a project focused on spend tracking and budget reconciliation, culminating in an upcoming budget readout during a team meeting.

"So far I've just loved getting to experience what a job in the career could look like," explained Liston. "I have met a lot of new people and have been able to make professional connections."

Originally from Washington, Liston moved to Rigby during her sophomore year of high school. She is on track to graduate in May 2027 and hopes to pursue a career as a forensic accountant, with auditing as a strong second choice.



December



Piper Carlson is a marketing student interning with Idaho State University's Department of Environmental Health, Safety, and Sustainability (EHSS). Carlson's duties include managing EHSS's social media accounts, developing a monthly sustainability newsletter, and coordinating events to engage students in sustainability initiatives.

"This internship has taught me the importance of clear communication, data tracking, and strategic planning in promoting sustainability," explained Carlson. "I've gained hands-on experience in event coordination, digital marketing, and sustainability reporting, which has strengthened my skills and given me confidence in pursuing a career in marketing or finance."

In addition to her regular duties, Carlson also helped in the launch of a campus thrift store. This store is intended to provide affordable options for students and staff while promoting a circular economy on campus and eliminating waste sent to landfills.

"Piper is not just a hard worker, she is a leader, a creative thinker, and a true ambassador for sustainability on campus," stated Pallavi Pokharel, ISU Sustainability Manager and Carlson's supervisor. "I rely on her deeply because when she takes charge of something, she delivers excellence every single time."

Originally from Albertville, Minnesota, Carlson intends to launch a career in finance, marketing, or project management after graduation. Carlson is a forward on the ISU women's basketball team and enjoys staying active, connecting with teammates, and challenging herself both on and off the court.

Year in Review

Statistics from this year -

Total CPI interns in 2025: 744

Approximate paid internship hours:
150,000

Departments participating: 170

Employers involved: 143

As the year concludes, the CPI program celebrates the contributions of hundreds of interns who gained hands-on experience across Idaho State University and the community. While scheduling adjustments shifted the Intern of the Month timeline this year, the impact of CPI students continued throughout 2025.



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who participated in the CPI program. Since 2010, we have supported over 11,000 interns, 900+ internships per year, and 400+ community organizations.

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