



CAREER CENTER



# CAREER PATH INTERN OF THE MONTH

2024

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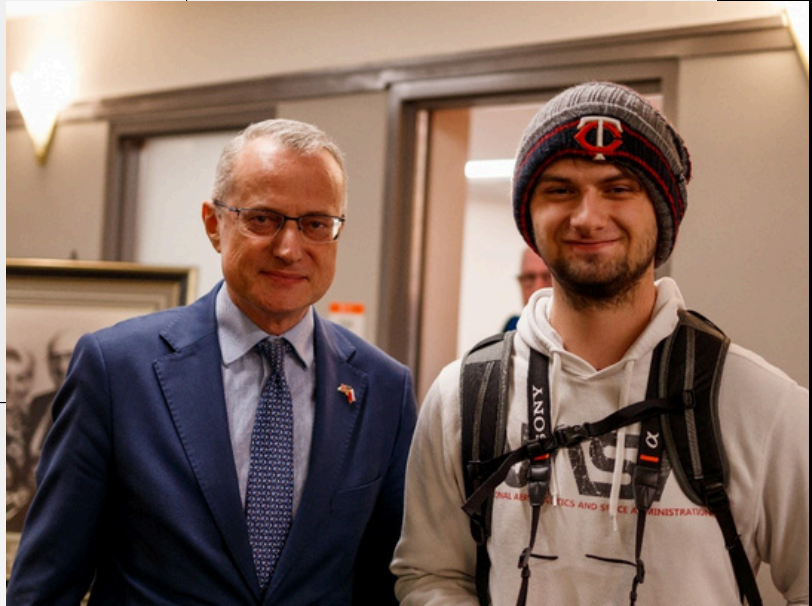
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# ABOUT CAREER PATH INTERNSHIPS

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. Additionally, 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



Ukrainian ambassador and Pulitzer Prize award winner James Risen and Thomas Curtis.

Thomas Curtis is a freshman Idaho State University (ISU) student majoring in History with a minor in Visual Media. Curtis currently holds a Career Path Internship with ISU's College of Arts and Letters (CAL) Marketing and Communications team. During his internship, Curtis has developed and maintained the college's media library, which plays a pivotal role in promoting the academic programs available within the college.

"Thomas is dedicated and professional," stated Elisabeth Curtis, CAL Marketing and Communications Coordinator and Curtis' supervisor. "His collaborative approach has allowed him to work seamlessly with faculty members, staff, donors, and community members."

Curtis has had the opportunity to hone his photography skills, capturing important moments involving prominent public figures, such as the Ukrainian ambassador and Pulitzer Prize award winner James Risen.

"I think the improvements in my photography has been awesome," explained Curtis. "This internship has ignited a greater passion to do photography in the future as a potential freelancer."

Originally from the beautiful city of Coeur d'Alene, Curtis expects to graduate in May 2027. After graduation, he hopes to travel the world exploring new cultures, meeting new people, and capturing those moments with his camera. In his spare time, Curtis enjoys playing ultimate frisbee and chess.

# FEBRUARY

Nicole Jaeggli is a third year Doctor of Audiology (AuD) graduate student on Idaho State University's Meridian campus. Jaeggli currently holds an CPI internship within the Department of Audiology where she assists in teaching undergraduate audiology students skills needed for their future profession.

"In addition to her general internship duties, Nicole independently mentors three undergraduate students by working with them to develop basic clinical skills with hands-on practice and constructive feedback for improvement," explained Deborah Viera, ISU Audiology Clinical Assistant Professor & Externship Coordinator and Jaeggli's supervisor. "Through the work that she is doing, she is able to develop skills and abilities that translate directly into her own graduate work and also help prepare her for her career as an audiologist."

Jaeggli's experience in mentoring and teaching undergraduate students has inspired her to continue teaching young professionals even after her internship concludes.



"My internship has made me more excited to supervise and mentor students when I am an audiologist in the future," stated Jaeggli. "Through my internship, I have become better at communicating and teaching different topics."

Originally from Long Island, New York, Jaeggli expects to graduate in May 2025. In her spare time, Jaeggli enjoys hot yoga, going on walks, trying new coffee places, and hanging out with her cat Schmidt.

# MARCH



Christian Benner is a senior Electrical Engineering major currently interning as an engineering laboratory assistant on Idaho State University's Idaho Falls campus. Benner's typical duties include instructing students in the electrical and computer engineering labs and maintain the laboratory equipment.

Benner has gained much more than just a paycheck from his internship.

"I have learned a lot from instructing my students, as well as learning the core material better myself," explained Benner. "It has shown me that you

never stop learning and has taught me that reviewing is the best reinforcement of education."

In addition to his regular duties, Benner spent much of the fall 2023 semester creating laboratory spaces that provide accommodation to students with health conditions or impairments.

"Christian he has gone above and beyond this semester setting up a weekly laboratory workspace for a disability accommodation," stated Andrew Chrysler, Electrical and Computer Engineering Assistant Professor and Benner's supervisor. "He has continuously created the workspace, but also proactively worked with myself and the disability services office to create and improve laboratory accommodations. His hard work is creating valuable opportunities for other students."

Originally from Tennessee, Benner expects to graduate this semester. He hopes to find a job at the Idaho National Lab where he can apply his degree and continue on his journey of discovery. In his spare time, Benner enjoys constructing things, playing videos games and practicing archery.

# APRIL



Biz Cole is a senior Accounting major currently interning with A-1 Custom Construction located in Pocatello, Idaho. Cole's duties include processing invoices, managing assets and performing other general budgeting activities.

"I have been able to learn what accounting in a small business looks like, and learned how to build relationships and navigate conflicts with contractors," explained Cole. "This internship has helped me feel confident in what my plans are for after graduation."

The knowledge acquired in the accounting program at ISU combined with real-life experience through her CPI internship has helped Cole quickly become a valued employee at A-1 Custom Construction.

"She has been able to quickly learn all of the quirks that our company has and she has been able to jump right in and provide value to our clients," stated Tanner Stenquist, CEO of A-1 Custom Construction and Cole's supervisor. "She has been able to learn quickly and has been able to jump right in and provide value to our clients."

A Middleton, Idaho native, Cole will graduate this May. She intends to continue working at A-1 Custom Construction and will take the CPA exam in July 2024. In her free time, Cole enjoys playing volleyball, golfing, reading, and playing board games with her family.

# MAY



Mariana Santillan is a senior double majoring in Finance and Healthcare Administration currently interning with Idaho State University's Office of Advancement. Santillan's duties include assisting with monthly financials, reconciliation of investments, and cash flow projection projects.

"On top of teaching me valuable accounting and finance skills, this internship has taught me how to network and get out of my comfort zone," explained Santillan. "This experience has made a difference in my life by solidifying my career choice and it makes me excited for future opportunities within this field."

Mariana Santillan is a senior double majoring in Finance and Healthcare Administration currently interning with Idaho State University's Office of Advancement. Santillan's duties include assisting with monthly financials, reconciliation of investments, and cash flow projection projects.

"Mari has played a pivotal role within our Advancement team, demonstrating exemplary dedication, passion, and enthusiasm for ISU that resonates throughout our department," stated Amy Dressel, Director of Advancement Communications and Santillan's supervisor. "In addition to her contributions, Mari effectively channels the student perspective, enriching our understanding of student needs."

Originally from Hood River, Oregon, Santillan will graduate in May 2025. After graduation, she hopes to continue her education and get a MBA at Idaho State University. In her free time, Santillan enjoys playing Wii Sports, exploring the region, and attending networking events.



# JUNE



Nicole Abreo is a graduate student in the Occupational Therapy program at Idaho State University. Abreo recently concluded her internship with the Occupational Therapy Department where she assisted with a course that is taught to students in the first year of the OT program. Having taken the course as a student the previous year, Abreo was not only able to assist other students, but also recognize the progress she has made within her program.

"This internship helped to highlight how much I have learned in the past year since I was enrolled in the course," explained Abreo. "Working with the younger students helped solidify my knowledge of the course content because I had to explain certain ideas or concepts when there was confusion."

Abreo's contributions have helped create a more interactive course for the current students. As an example, she suggested modifications to the delivery of the course that resulted in a significant improvement not only in the student's excitement for the activity but also in the quality of the interventions they planned

"As the semester has progressed, I have grown to particularly appreciate Nicole's thoughtful preparation for the class each week, including reflecting on her experiences as a learner in the course last year and in other courses in the OT program, and the suggestions she is able to make to improve the course content as a result of this reflection," stated Amanda Henscheid, ISU Occupational Therapy Program Chair and Abreo's supervisor. "I have sincerely appreciated the contribution that Nicole has made to our course this semester."

Originally from Idaho Falls, Idaho, Abreo will graduate in May 2025. After graduation, she intends to work as an Occupational Therapist in Southeast Idaho.

# JULY

Marlon "Thomas" Thomas is a freshman Psychology major who currently holds a CPI internship at Idaho State University's Veterans Student Services Center. Thomas maintains a wide variety of duties within his internship including developing a peer to peer mentoring program for veterans, helping to organize the annual Homeless Stand Down event, and assisting other veterans on their path to higher education.

"From this internship I have learned how to better communicate with others and listen," explained Thomas. "I moved here last October and didn't have anything. This internship has allowed me to establish a safety net, connect with amazing people, and work towards my future plans."

In February, Thomas was selected by the Idaho Division of Veteran Services (IDVS) to be one of only eight Veterans in the State of Idaho to participate in an extensive and prestigious Veteran-to-Veteran Training program sponsored by IDVS. Thomas' work on a new peer mentor program at Idaho State University will help to better meet the academic and social needs of the Veteran and military-connected students and will serve as a resource for Veterans throughout SE Idaho.



"Thomas is a quiet servant leader who understands the needs of Veteran and military-connected students," stated Todd Johnson, Director of the Veterans Student Services Center and Thomas' supervisor. "It is an honor to have Thomas on our Veteran Services team."

Originally from Jacksonville, Florida, Thomas hopes to continue his work helping others as well as travel the world to understand more cultures and better understand people. In his spare time, Thomas enjoys listening to music, playing games, going for walks and spending time with loved ones.

# AUGUST



Abigail Gallegos is a senior Biology major who interned at the Idaho Virtualization Laboratory (IVL), research unit of the Idaho Museum of Natural History on the campus of Idaho State University. Gallegos' duties included assisting in the 3D virtualization of two fossilized dinosaur skulls from Dinosaur National Monument, processing 3D scanned bones of 20 large mammals including a black rhino and hippo from Havard, and also rigging and animating IVL dinosaur skeletal reconstructions for use in future museum education projects.

"This internship has given me a great opportunity to learn and practice 3D modeling skills with great computer access, which I hope to carry with me into my career by exploring scientific animation," explained Gallegos. "I hope to start my career right away in a biology related field, whether as a technician or researcher I want to incorporate scientific animation/illustration to help further educate others about my field."

Gallegos' strong work ethic and enthusiasm have helped the IVL complete projects at a faster than anticipated rate.

"Abby has been and is still a tremendous asset to the Virtualization lab here at the museum. She is quick, focused and excited for the projects we throw her way, not hesitating to ask questions or problem solve," stated Tim Gomes, manager of the IVL. "Abby is a fast learner, super fun to work with and quickly earned her nerd cred in the lab."

Originally from Idaho Falls, Gallegos will graduate in December 2024. In her spare time, Gallegos enjoys hiking, crafting, and gaming.

# SEPTEMBER



Andre Sovich is a junior Computer Science major who holds a CPI internship with ISU's Computer Science department. During Sovich's internship, he has developed intelligent games with the purpose of educating a user while also learning how the user interacts with games. Currently, Sovich, in collaboration with Dr. Curtis Whitaker, is working on a virtual reality (VR) narrative puzzle game based on 1600s London, England.

"A highlight of my internship experience has been the networking access to

master and doctoral students within my field," stated Sovich. "It is helpful to have access to those with strong knowledge of what it is like to be a student in Computer Science."

Aside from Sovich's internship duties, he is also an active student volunteer for the SEE Camp S2, a NASA ISGC-funded K-12 STEM camp facilitated by the faculty of the College of Science and Engineering (CoSE).

"Andre has shown an exceptional level of dedication in setting up multiple camp sessions, volunteering, and providing assistance to the attendees during the sessions," explained Farjana Eishita, Computer Science Assistant Professor and Sovich's supervisor. "His exceptional performance, dedication, and positive impact make him an outstanding team player who will continue to excel in his future endeavors."

Born in Logan, Utah and raised in Pocatello, Idaho, Sovich will graduate in May 2025. In his spare time, Sovich performs in musical theater shows around the community. He is currently in Blackfoot Community Players' Little Shop of Horrors where he plays the lead role, Seymour Krelborn.

# OCTOBER



Vic Thomas is sophomore Marketing major currently working as a promotions intern at Idaho State University School of Performing Arts. Thomas' duties include using her creativity to create designs, work with social media, and write press releases.

"This internship has taught me that the most important skill is communication," stated Thomas. "I've learned that oftentimes advisors, professors, and upper-level students are willing to help anyone as long as they ask, which has substantially improved my creative process and work motivation."

Thomas' skills, abilities and motivation have proven quite useful for the School of Performing Arts.

"Victoria has consistently demonstrated an exceptional level of professionalism, intelligence, and drive which has significantly impacted our team's success," commented Meg Holmes, Promotions Director and Business Manager for the School of Performing Arts and Thomas' supervisor. "Victoria is not only creative in her approach to projects but also a joy to work with."

Originally from Shelley, Idaho, Thomas will graduate in May 2027. She intends to spend the remainder of her time at Idaho State University exploring opportunities that pique her interests. In her spare time, Thomas performs in the Bengal Marching Band, explores the outdoors and enjoys reading classic novels.

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# NOVEMBER



Joe Shurtleff is a senior Civil Engineering major who holds a CPI internship at Idaho State University's Structural Laboratories, located in the Engineering Research Complex (ERC) and Disaster Response Complex (DRC). His duties include teaching students to use equipment and tools safely, keeping the labs clean and organized, and assisting in designing and setting up training exercises.

"I have gained valuable experience in this role as well as an increased perspective about myself and my strengths," explained Shurtleff. "I am excited to utilize these skills in the future as I pursue my civil engineering career and seek out other project management positions."

In addition to working with students, Shurtleff has been able to build relationships with industry partners in the area.

"Joe has worked on multiple high profile projects in collaboration with ITD, INL, and other partners," stated Mustafa Mashal, Associate Director & Fellow at the Center for Advanced Energy Studies and Shurtleff's supervisor. "He has been an extraordinary person in our large-scale laboratories and we are lucky to have a CPI such as Joe."

Originally from Boise, Idaho, Shurtleff will graduate in December 2025. He plans on using his degree within the region and is considering pursuing a masters degree in the future. In his spare time, Shurtleff enjoys camping, foraging, rock hounding, and being outdoors.

# DECEMBER

Mackenzie Caress is a senior Music Education major working as a librarian for the ISU Music Department. Caress' duties include cleaning and cataloguing the band library, organizing operations for events, and band management.

"She is so good at her position that we added a second band for her to manager during the school year, the Wednesday night ISU Civic Band," explained Thomas Kloss, Department of Music professor, Music Education Coordinator and Caress' supervisor. "She has also been cleaning and cataloguing our band library, and I'm happy to say that it is organized and finally running efficiently."

Although Caress' internship revolves around music, she has gained many transferable skills including professionalism, communication and leadership during her experience.



"I have learned so much about how professional organizations, like this orchestra, run and how to best communicate with the professionals who work in this field," stated Caress. "I also have to keep an organized mind to ensure everything is in order, which will help me in the future as a music teacher!"

Originally from Nampa, Idaho, Caress will graduate in May 2025. She will audition for graduate programs in the spring, with the hopes of being accepted and pursuing a graduate degree in either Trumpet Performance or Arts Administration. In her spare time, Caress enjoys watching movies, being in nature, and perfecting her banana bread recipe.

# THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who participated in the CPI program. Since 2010, the CPI programs have supported over 10,000 interns, 900+ internships per year, and 400+ community organizations.



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