



March 2023

To: House Education Committee
Re: HB23-1198—STEM Externships for Teachers

Dear Committee Members,

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is one of the oldest women's organizations in the country, empowering women since 1881. The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

AAUW supports a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and to address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls.

One of AAUW's major goals is advancing STEM education for girls. In order to accomplish this, we need more teachers who are well-grounded in STEM courses. In addition to academic coursework, an externship with a company involved in science, technology, engineering or math can provide critical hands-on experience. HB 1198 will give teachers that opportunity, while rewarding companies that volunteer to train them.

AAUW of Colorado strongly supports House Bill 1198 and requests your YES vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming a law.

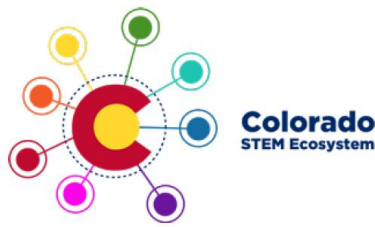
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden".

Su Ryden
AAUW of Colorado Public Policy Co-Director

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American Association of University Women--AAUW is a top-rated 501(c)3 charitable organization whose mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.



Written Testimony

Submitted by: Colorado STEM Ecosystem and Key Partners

Submitted to: House Education Committee

Submitted for: Wednesday March 8, 2023

Re: HB23-1198, "Teacher Externship Program For Science Technology Engineering And Math Disciplines"
(<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb23-1198>)

Why?

Preparing Colorado K-12 students to be postsecondary and workforce ready is essential to strengthening and diversifying the local Colorado talent pipeline, advancing thriving communities, and accelerating economic vitality.

Current initiatives to ensure student Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR), such as ICAP (Individual Career and Academic Plan) and the School Counselor Corps Grant Program (SCCGP) provide some support for schools to invest in educators to meaningfully increase career awareness to ensure Colorado students are prepared for their bright futures, but more effort is needed.

Providing educator externships that immerse educators in an-industry based experience is a research-backed practice that translates into increased support for students and their families. It is a crucial piece of the puzzle to close both educational and workforce gaps in Colorado.

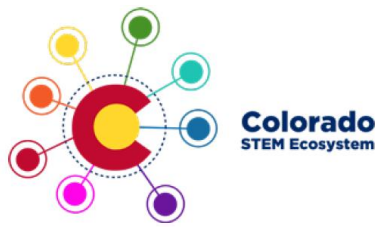
What?

This Bill sponsors the development of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Educator Externships. Educator Externships are a unique professional development opportunity where teachers are immersed in a company to learn about the skills and competencies needed to succeed in that industry or career path. The experience both 1) strengthens an educator's teaching abilities and 2) brings relevant, real-world context into the classroom. Externships are often transformative for educators, students, and industry partners. Impacting just one teacher allows a company to reach between 20-150 students each year.

How?

It is important to adopt legislation establishing a STEM educator externship through the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment that 1) establishes employer incentives to engage in offering opportunities for educators; and 2) establishes educator incentives to gain industry-based professional development.

State funding for establishment of this program is respectfully requested.



Impact?

Establishment of and investment in STEM educator externships will:

- Invest in **EDUCATORS**, honoring them as the leaders they are in preparing Colorado students for their bright futures.
- Prepare **STUDENTS** and their **FAMILIES** to better navigate their unique and informed paths toward their bright futures.
- Strengthen and diversify Colorado’s **TALENT PIPELINE**.

Please accept this as a full endorsement of the establishment of a Colorado STEM Educator Externship program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Janelle M. Johnson
Executive Director
Colorado STEM Ecosystem

PARTNER SIGNATURES

A cross-sector of partners recognize the value of a Colorado Educator Externship program. Partners represent K-12 education, employers, industry associations, postsecondary, nonprofits, and more from across Colorado and the nation. Partners continue to sign on to support this important work. Partners are listed in the order in which they signed on.



Martha K Patton
Associate Principal

Warren Tech, Jeffco
Public Schools



Kristin R Donley
Science Instructor

Boulder Valley Schools



Patty Quinones
Senior Partner

Colorado Education Initiative



Eric Raya Steinbeiss
Manager of STEM and Career Readiness Programs

Girls Inc. of Metro Denver



Sarah R Johnson
Environmental Education Specialist, Business Owner

Wild Rose Education



Lynnane George
Professor

University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA



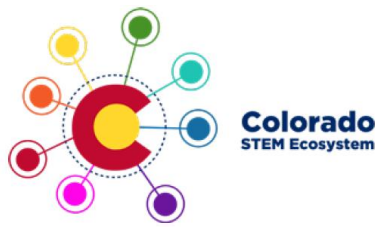
James King
Vice President

Infini-D Learning



Caitlin G Fine
Assistant Professor, Elementary Education

Metropolitan State University of Denver



Leslie Larocque

McKinstry

Leslie Larocque
Senior Vice President



Donna Charlevoix, PhD
Vice President, Engagement

EarthScope
Consortium



Uniting Partners. Transforming Learning.

Julie Stolzer

TIES Teaching Institute
for Excellence in STEM

Julie Stolzer
Director Strategic Initiatives
& Program Manager of DSEC
(The DoD Defense STEM
Education Consortia)



Amy Goodman
Vice President and Counsel for
Policy + Advocacy

Colorado BioScience
Association



Dr. Veronica Corral Flores

Colorado Space Grant
Consortium -
University of Colorado
Boulder




Amy Claeson Dhingra, PhD
Research Engineering Manager

ZimVie Spine



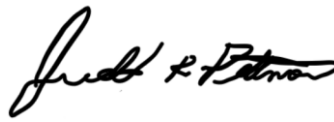
Damon Lenski
President

Colorado Photonics
Industry Association
(CPIA)



Angela Baber
Executive Director

IDEA Colorado



Judd R. Pittman
Chair

National STEM
Learning Ecosystems