

THE RBDC TIMES

Official Newsletter of the RBDC



Upcoming Events

FEB 29TH
BUS 200 Project
Application Deadline

MAR 31ST
Entrepreneur Launch
Deadline

APR 5TH
Winter Projects End

APR 22ND
Spring Projects Start

Who is the RBDC?

The Research and Business Development Center (RBDC) is a nonprofit organization that serves over 120+ undergraduate students each semester by providing them with project-based internships. Students are:

- Trained in professional areas,
- Connected with real business professionals,
- Receive valuable work experience and internship credit.

In turn, students provide their clients with affordable business solutions and become potential hires.

Exciting Opportunity for Entrepreneurs & Investors

Entrepreneur Launch Program

The RBDC is excited to share a fantastic opportunity for entrepreneurs, small businesses, and investors: the Entrepreneur Launch program. By connecting entrepreneurs with investors, the RBDC can help bridge the gap between innovative ideas and capital investment, ultimately contributing to the success of emerging businesses and the overall prosperity of the region. The Entrepreneur Launch program could be your next big move in the entrepreneurial world.

Our program is tailor-made for entrepreneurs and small business owners who are seeking funding and strategic guidance to propel their businesses forward. If selected, the entrepreneur will have the chance to work with a dedicated team of 3-4 interns (remote) and an investor for three months.

What sets this program apart is that there's no cost to entrepreneur. Our investors will sponsor the project, making it a unique opportunity to receive valuable insights and assistance without the financial burden. You can learn more about the program and its benefits at www.rbdclaunch.org.

The projects are set to kick off in May and will conclude in July 2024. At the project's conclusion, the entrepreneur and investor will have the opportunity to decide if a long-term investment or relationship makes sense.

Want to invest in the program?

To be an investor, you will meet with the RBDC to discuss your interests and investment requirements. The RBDC will present the investor with entrepreneur applications that best fit their investing portfolio. After reviewing and selecting a business, the investor will sponsor a \$5k project, made up of 3-4 interns (remote), to evaluate and/or assist the business. At the conclusion of the 13-week project, the investor will be able to decide if they would like to make a long-term investment with the entrepreneur.

Ready to take your business to the next level?

Apply now for the Entrepreneur Launch program at www.rbdclaunch.org.



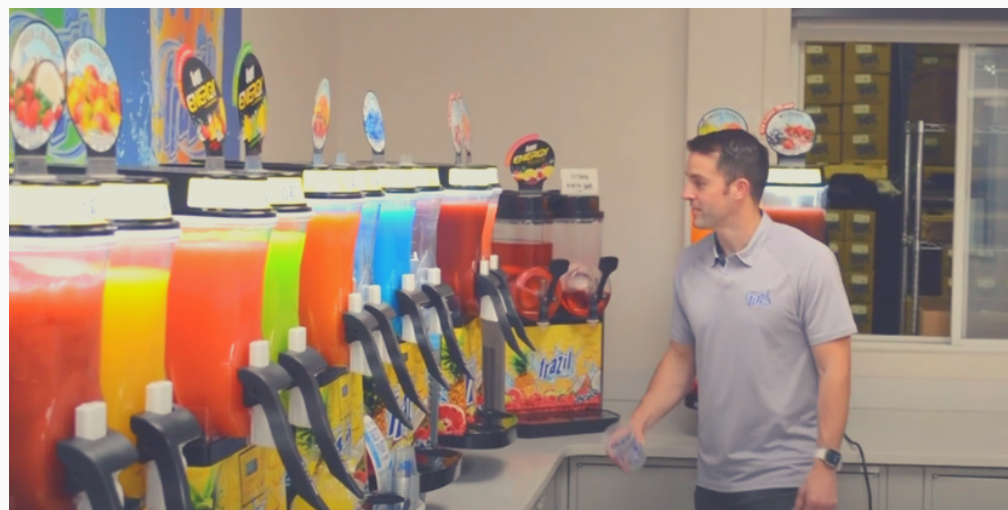


Celebrating Collaboration with Alumni

The RBDC provides undergraduate students in the intermountain region with meaningful internship opportunities. These projects become exponentially more meaningful when we can connect the students with alumni. We are extremely grateful for the alumni who have given back to the RBDC.

Elena Juarez graduated from BYU-Idaho in 2020 with her bachelor's degree in data science. She has mentored for the RBDC since fall of 2023. She said, *"I became a mentor because I wanted to give back and share some of the knowledge, I have gained through being in the industry. I have definitely learned a lot in the past few years [and] I would have loved hearing some of the advice I [now] have, as a younger student."*

Jared Fowler also mentors for us but he started at the RBDC as an intern. He said, *"I met some great business leaders during my internship. A couple of them I still talk to today. [They] have been great mentors giving me great advice- people I still reach out to today when I'm making difficult decisions."* Jared graduated from BYU-Idaho in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in business management.



Jared Fowler at Frazil where he works as Director of New Ventures

Alumni also add, and gain, value by sponsoring projects with the RBDC. CEO of Bertelsen Education, Justin Bertelsen said, *"Working with the RBDC has been a huge benefit to our business. In an effort to make our services more inclusive, we teamed up with a group of native Spanish speaking interns to assist in the translation of our courses. We feel proud to now be able to offer our content to a wider range of people. Thanks, RBDC!"* Justin graduated from BYU-Idaho in 2019 with a bachelor's degree in international/global studies.

Do you want to work with current students in the intermountain region? Visit our alumni page to learn more about how you can get involved with the RBDC: www.rbdcenter.org/alumni.html.

John Ward

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT

John Ward is the executive director of the RBDC. His dedication to the RBDC started in 2018 when he was called to serve as a senior missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Rexburg, Idaho. John quickly became entwined with the RBDC's mission of helping students and local businesses.

John grew up in Bloomington, Idaho, and graduated from the USAF Academy. His 25-year USAF career included over a thousand hours as an F-4 and F-111 navigator. He spent over 12 years in New Product Development including time as a major Program Manager on the F-16 and F-22 programs.

Following his USAF life, he worked for Emerson Electric and became VP of Product Planning, helping to develop many industry-changing air conditioning and heating products. He also led the Emerson Climate Tech Leadership Development Program.



The RBDC is a 501 (c)(3) organization, and all donations are fully tax deductible.

Donate today at www.rbdcenter.org/make-a-donation.html