

OACC | Ohio TechNet

Experiential Learning Webinar Series

2026



OhioTechNet

Innovative Approaches:

Micro-Internships and Project-Based Learning



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Coordinator, Work -Based Learning



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Center for Career Success

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**Today's
PRESENTERS**

OVERVIEW OF Experiential Learning

EARN AND LEARN:

PAID | Structured Learning | Clear Pathway to Employment
A paid subset of WBL that integrates wages with structured training

**EXPERIENTIAL
LEARNING:**
Any structured
activity where
learners gain skills
through hands-on,
real-world
experience. Learning
by doing and
reflecting, rather
than learning only
through classroom
instruction.

Experiential
Learning

TODAY'S
FOCUS

Work
Based
Learning

Earn and Learn

Apprenticeships | Co-Ops | Paid Internships

Unpaid Internships

Industry Projects

Pre-Apprenticeship

Clinical Rotations & Practicums

Micro-Internships

Simulations

Lab Experiences

Service Learning

Project-Based
Learning

**WORK
BASED
LEARNING:**
Experiences
where students
develop skills
through
engagement
with employers
in real work
environments.
Can be paid or
unpaid, credit or
non-credit.

Session Overview

Webinar Goals:

- Learn how institutions are using innovative experiential learning models to create flexible, accessible, and meaningful applied learning opportunities for students.
- Identify effective practices for implementing micro-internships and project-based learning and develop strategies to incorporate these flexible experiential learning models into academic and workforce pathways.



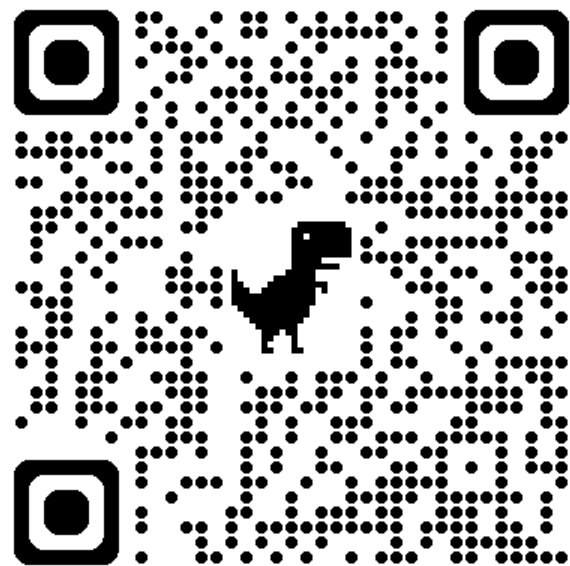
Experiential Learning on Your Campus

Webinar Series Overview

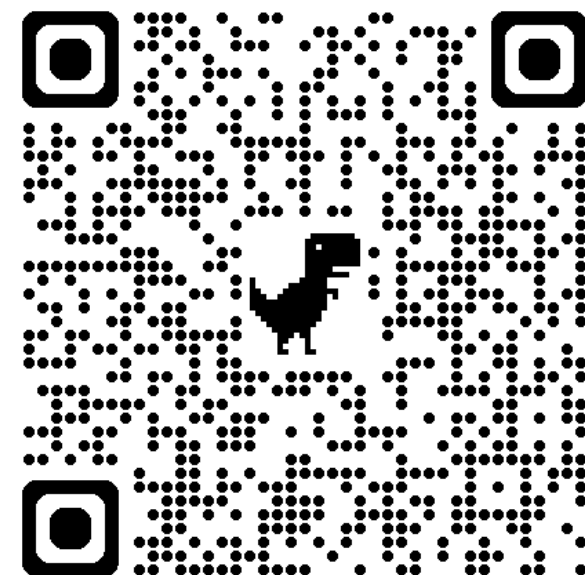


This series will equip you with actionable models, tools, and inspiration to advance experiential learning across your institution.

View Previous Webinars



Register for Future Webinars



1

Foundations of Experiential Learning

2

Designing Earn and Learn Programs

3

Building Industry Partnerships

TODAY!

4

**Innovative Approaches: Micro-Internships
and Project-Based Learning, September 30th**

5

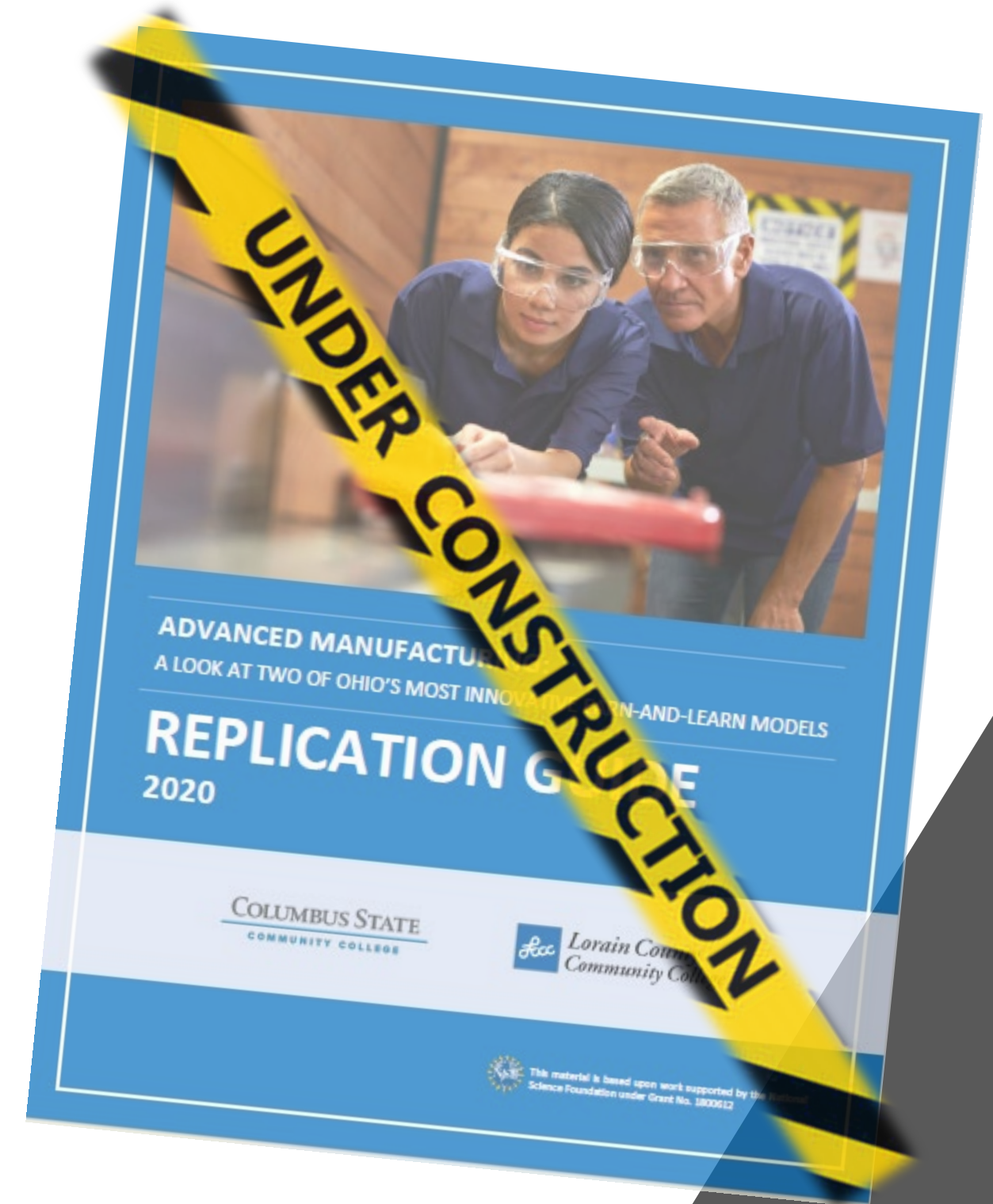
Making Experiential Learning Count:
Data, Insights, and Outcomes that Matter
November 18th

6

Experiential Learning Recap & New
Guide Launch, December 9th

Experiential Learning Replication Guide

The series concludes with the release of an updated Earn & Learn Replication Guide, offering tools and insights for institutions ready to launch or scale experiential learning initiatives.



Experiential Learning on Your Campus

U P N E X T !



1

Foundations of Experiential Learning



2

Designing Earn and Learn Programs



3

Building Industry Partnerships



4

Innovative Approaches: Micro-Internships
and Project-Based Learning



5

Making Experiential Learning Count:
Data, Insights, and Outcomes that Matter



6

Experiential Learning Recap &
New Guide Launch

November 18th, 2026 | 12:00PM

Learn how institutions are capturing meaningful experiential learning data and turning it into actionable insights. Participants will discover tools, metrics, and reporting strategies that help showcase student outcomes and support statewide workforce and education goals.

Let's Hear From You



Has your institution adopted micro-internships, project-based learning, AR/VR, and/or simulations for experiential learning? If so, what pathways is it embedded within?

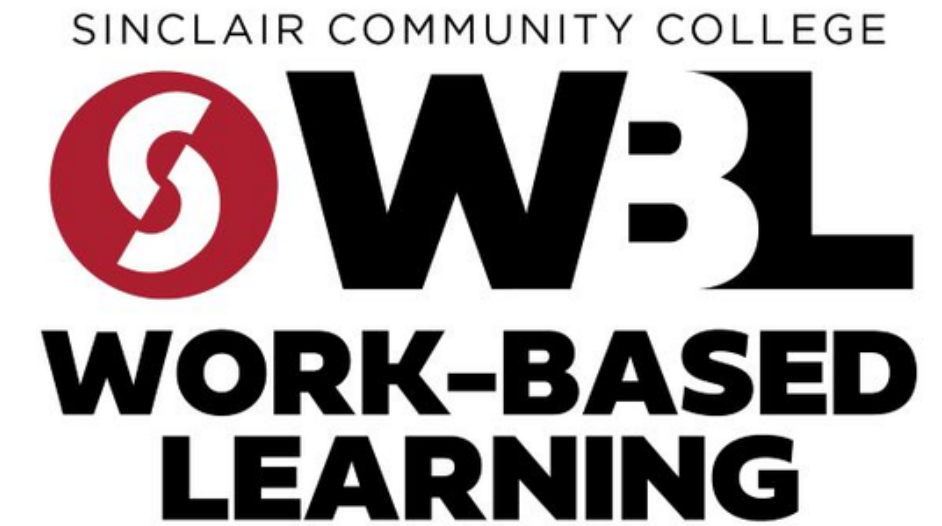


SINCLAIR
COLLEGE



Office of Work-based Learning

One office. Two closely connected teams.



WORKBASED LEARNING

INTERNSHIP TEAM

- Talent & Industry Partnership Coordinators
 - Business & Public Services
 - Liberal Arts, Communications & Social Sciences
 - Science, Technology, Engineering & Math
- Professional Skills Coach
- Student Outreach Specialist
Grant-funded position

APPRENTICESHIP TEAM

- Strategy and Special Projects Director
- DOL Industry Partnership Coordinator
- DOL Student Outreach Coordinator
- Pre-apprenticeship Coordinator
- DOL Compliance Officer



The teams work closely together to connect learners and employers with meaningful work-based learning opportunities.

Expanding Work-based Learning Opportunities

Beyond internships.
Real experience.
Stronger futures.

FROM A STRONG FOUNDATION

Internships at Sinclair connect faculty, employers, and learners in a complete work-based learning experience.

WHAT MAKES AN INTERNSHIP AT SINCLAIR?

At Sinclair, the learning experience matters more than the job title.



New learning

The learner gains knowledge or skills they did not already have.



Aligned to academics

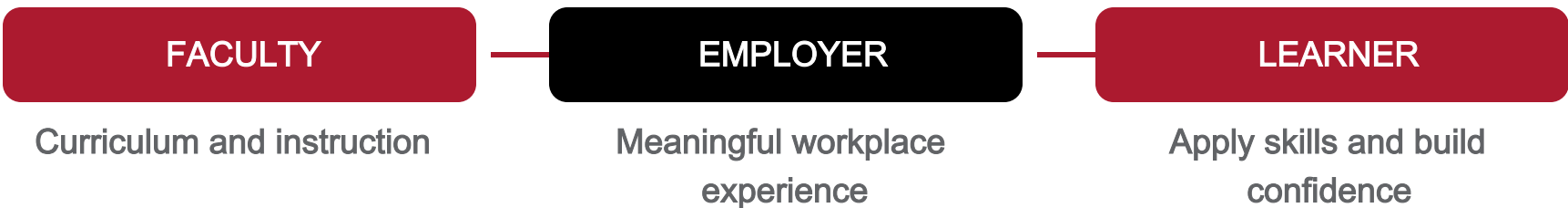
The experience connects to the learner's academic program or field of study.



Supervised experience

The learner has meaningful guidance, oversight, and feedback in the workplace.

THE THREE -WAY CONNECTION



Employer + Learner opportunities can also create valuable workplace learning when academic credit is not part of the experience.

Externships and job shadowing are viewed together in our office as opportunities to observe, explore, and engage with workplaces beyond the internship model.

Faculty and Employer Connections

Partnering across campus and industry to turn workplace needs into learning opportunities.

CONNECTING FACULTY, INDUSTRY, AND THE CLASSROOM

- 01 Connect faculty with employers and industry contacts
- 02 Invite faculty and learners to industry site visits
- 03 Share workplace insight that can inform curriculum conversations
- 04 Support connections between departments and employers when opportunities arise

Faculty + Industry Connections → Classroom and capstone conversations

BOUNDARY NOTE

The Office of WBL does not manage project-based learning; these examples reflect STEM connections and department-level practices.

STEM CAPSTONE CLASSES

Across STEM, capstone classes often give learners the opportunity to complete industry -aligned projects and present their work at a showcase for industry partners.

In some departments, industry partners may sponsor a capstone class. The model varies by department.



STEM ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARDS

Where STEM alumni advisory boards are active, they help connect department conversations to industry experience and help learners understand the transition from Sinclair into the workplace.

Employer Outreach Efforts

Relationships begin with listening, showing up, and finding the right point of connection.



Marie Davis, DOL Industry Partnership Coordinator

- Marie Davis and I visit companies in person, often without an appointment, to introduce the Office of WBL.
- We share information about apprenticeships, internships, and how our office can help.
- We listen for employer needs and identify the right point of connection.
- When needs extend beyond our office, we connect employers with funding and other community resources.
- A short conversation can become the first step toward a future partnership.

SHOW UP

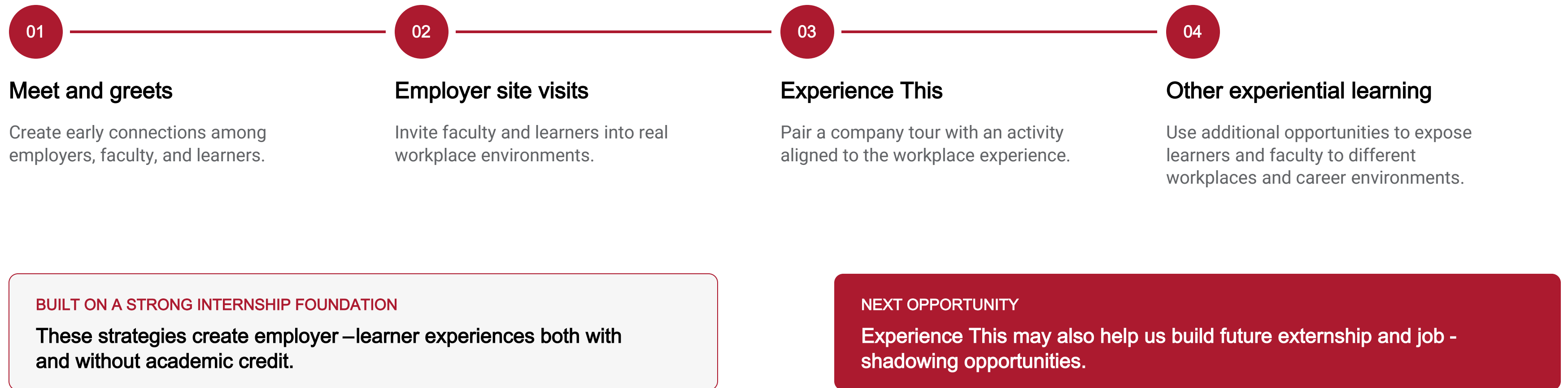
LISTEN

CONNECT

BUILD

Employer Engagement Strategies

Four practical pathways from first connection to immersive learning.



Opportunities for Continued Growth

Support what is already happening—and make it easier to see, share, and expand.

01

Gather consistent information about project -based learning happening in classrooms.

02

Recognize that faculty are balancing many competing priorities.

03

Make it easier to document and share these experiences.

04

Use what we learn to strengthen learner preparation for workforce entry.

Better documentation helps us see, support, and expand what is already happening.

Questions?

Let's continue building meaningful connections among students, faculty, and employers.

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Thank you!

SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE





CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY



OhioTechNet

Experiential Learning at Case Western Reserve University

Kailene Dolan,

Assistant Director for Experiential Learning

Emily Weaver,

International Student Career Specialist



CWRU's Approach to Experiential Learning

- Experiential learning is a campus-wide effort
 - 98% of students participate in ExL; >73% participated in more than one type of experience
- ExE Database for students to find CWRU sponsored ExE opportunities



CWRU's Approach to Experiential Learning

- Treks (Wall Street, DC, Silicon Valley)
- Internships, Micro-Internships, Co-Ops
 - Summer on the Cuyahoga
 - Humanities@Work
 - GCP STEM
 - On-Campus Jobs to Internships
- Study/Internships Abroad
- Research
- Project-Based Campus Opportunities
 - xLab, Fowler Center



Where Is Your Bottleneck?

- Internal Silos
- External Disconnect
- Overlapping Outreach
- Resource Constraints



Practicum

- Academic structure to internships
 - Zero-credit, transcriptable course
 - Maintains full-time enrollment status for Fall/Spring full-time internships
 - Open to students from any major and level
 - Student identify own learning goals and bring in faculty advisor
- Assignments:
 - Midterm & final self-evaluation surveys
 - Midterm progress call between employer & faculty advisor
 - Final self-reflection paper & updated resume



Humanities@Work

- Summer stipend for humanities students in unpaid or underpaid internships
- Micro-Internship Program
 - 30-60 hours over 4-8 weeks
 - Spring Semester
 - Fixed stipend



Humanities@Work: Micro-Internships

- Partnership between Baker Nord Center for the Humanities and Center for Career Success
 - Recruit employers, review applications, match students
 - Facilitate practicum, support students, process stipends
- Cleveland small businesses, nonprofits, and start-ups
 - Provide meaningful projects, supervise interns
 - Provide 30+ minute orientation; 3-5 hours of mentorship
- Undergraduate students in humanities majors
 - Students enroll in practicum program
 - Stipend provided upon completion



STEM Micro-Internship Program

- Collaboration with the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) and Cleveland State (Summer 2022 - Summer 2025)
 - Grant-funded from Cuyahoga Co.
 - STEM internships at NEOhio employers
 - \$1500-1600 for micro-internships, partial payment for part-time/full-time



STEM Micro-Internship Program

- Cultivation: GCP – Employers, CWRU/CSU – Students
 - Positions posted on GCP site, students identify top 3, top 3 candidates sent to employer to pick
 - Some employers seek support for self-selected interns
- Established companies & startups (incl. student startups)



STEM Micro-Internship Program

- Practicum structure for micro-internships
 - CWRU/CSU distribute payment at midpoint & end
- CWRU: 254 placements, \$427K grant-distributed, \$1.4M est. total wages



Questions?

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**THANK
YOU**



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