

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Do You...?

Love Working with Young Children?
Like Talking to People?
Have Awesome Organizational Skills?
Enjoy Working in a Team?
Have Leadership Experience to Hone?
Speak Spanish?

Would you like...?

A Full-Time Summer Job?
Great Pay & Per Diem?
New Friends from Colleges across Utah?
To work with Nonprofits or Education?
Experience and References for After College?

Come work for UPSTART!!

UPSTART is an in-home, technology-based kindergarten-readiness program funded by the State of Utah and managed by the Waterford Institute. The program is in its 8th year, serves more than 10,000 families across Utah, and gets high satisfaction and approval marks from parents [visit www.waterfordupstart.org for more info]. As an UPSTART intern, you will help us conduct graduation events where we will assess and celebrate children finishing the program and training events where we will assess incoming children and train their parents how to use the program.

We have openings for a variety of positions:

- Proctors – Help children complete a digital assessment (they think it's a game), host graduations, and interact with parents and guests.
- Trainers – Use a PowerPoint presentation to teach parents about the program and answer their questions.
- Check-In – Greet families and follow registration and equipment distribution processes (Position requires great organizational skills).
- Spanish Speakers – Working multiple positions, help Spanish-speaking families feel comfortable at both English- and Spanish-language events.
- Team Leads – Organize and lead a team of 6-7 fellow interns. (Must be College Junior or higher with prior leadership experience or past experience as an UPSTART intern).
- Administrative Support – Work at headquarters prepping for events, organizing your team, creating reports, and other administrative tasks (Must be a College Junior or higher and know Microsoft Office, especially Excel).
- Outreach Specialist – Find and register potential participants through community events, local partnerships, phone calls, mailings, door-knocking, etc.

Internship runs June 1st through the end of August. Because of our busy summer schedule, taking time off is discouraged. This is a statewide program, so travel is required and may include overnight trips. All vehicles, lodging, and meal per diem are provided. Offices are in Taylorsville, UT and interns report there each morning. Hours range from 30-50 hours/ week; some overtime may be expected. A typical week consists of 4-5 days at 8-12 hours per day, including travel time from the office to event sites. Some physical labor required (moving event supplies, loading vehicles, setting up computers, etc.). **Pay starts at \$12/hr.** Early applications have priority. Positions open until filled.

To apply, please email a one-page resume and brief cover letter to Taylor Rosecrans, UPSTART Events Manager, at taylorrosecrans@waterford.org.

Interns Propel UPSTART Kindergarten Readiness Program across Utah



UPSTART Interns meet Dr. Sydnee Dickson, Utah's State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

"It's hard, and there are long hours, but it is the best experience I've ever had in my life."

Michelle VacaGuzman is a self-described introvert, but you'd never know it by the way the college student stood with beaming confidence before crowds large and small promoting a kindergarten readiness program across Utah last summer. VacaGuzman is one of 42 tireless summer interns for Utah's UPSTART program who traveled the state to train parents on how their child can prepare for school by completing the adaptive cloud-based curriculum for just 15 minutes a day. For several months, and in many locations, VacaGuzman explained the successful program to parents, discussed motivation techniques, worked with children on assessing their early literacy skills, gathered feedback, and hosted graduations for hundreds of 4- and 5-year-olds.

VacaGuzman, a marriage and family studies major at Brigham Young University-Idaho online, calls herself "an introvert, 110 percent," yet developed life-changing public-speaking skills during her internship. "When you are a host or a trainer, you are the face of the program, and you are a lot of the parents' first and last point of contact for this program," she said. "So you have to create a welcoming [environment] and be super excited—you want to give them that positive experience." And interacting with kids, she said, was a treat. "At that age, they're so smart and so sweet. It was really fun to see that training. We got to interact with them after graduation. It was neat to see what they had actually learned."

Interns are an integral component to spreading UPSTART's mission to provide research-proven early

learning curriculum and kindergarten readiness programs so that all children—including those from low-income families, families that don't speak English, and families in ultra-rural locales—can have access to adaptive, cloud-based curriculum and better prepare for a successful academic career.

Eric Thornley, a two-time UPSTART intern and Spanish teaching major at BYU, is impressed by how parents overwhelmingly support the program—which is state funded and free for families. At graduation, many parents express positive feedback, saying the program will ensure their child succeeds in kindergarten. "The UPSTART program itself does most of the convincing," Thornley said. Among other duties, Thornley worked at the check-in desk for parents and children at UPSTART orientation and assessment events. Each parent and child would receive stickers for identification. "It was always fun to interact with them and see them excited to get started," Thornley recalled. "I would say, 'Hey here's a little sticker for you. Do you like stickers? And they say, 'Yea!'"

The interns are constantly motivated by feedback about the program's proven success. "Parents rave about the program," said two-time intern Brooke Diamond, a human development major at Utah State University. "There are always parents when they leave, that say thank you to every single intern because they just think the program is so awesome," said Megan Hewlett, a recent graduate of Utah State University who also interned two summers in a row.

VacaGuzman highly recommends the internship program to other college students. "It's hard, and there are long hours," she said, "but it is the best experience I've ever had in my life."

