

THE RBDC TIMES

Official Newsletter of the RBDC

Upcoming Events

JAN 8TH

Winter Projects Start

APR 10TH

Winter Projects End

MAY

Data Science Open House
(SLC)

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.

2023: New Employees, Projects, and Achievements

2023 was an exciting year for the RBDC. We increased our capacity to support students, added valuable products to our offerings, and proved to be an asset in the success stories of others.

As the end of the year draws near, we reflect upon what was brought to the RBDC. We welcomed a handful of new employees, including Libby Waite, Wendy Heder, Mike Min, and multiple project managers. We led 80+ projects, served 625+ students and worked with 50+ clients from around the United States. We sent students to Garden City, Utah, and Washington D.C. Additionally, we partnered with the BYU-Idaho Alumni Association to recruit mentors for our advanced projects, which allowed us to provide valuable connections to both our students and clients.

All of this allowed the RBDC to become the number one opportunity for experiential, project-based internships at BYU-Idaho. The RBDC provides indispensable, learning experiences for undergraduate students through our Basic, Advanced, and Data Science programs.

At the start of the year, we launched our Basic Products, featuring timelines, set deliverables, and low costs. We also introduced 5-week projects to increase productivity and accommodate more clients.

Our Advanced projects grew in stature, offering exceptional internships. During the summer, a team traveled to Garden City, Utah, conducting a survey for a rebranding initiative. Analyzing the results led to recommendations, followed by the creation of new logos and marketing campaigns.

Finally, our Data Science program's rapid growth has led to student recruitment and the formation of cross-disciplinary teams to enhance project support. Students can now receive internship credit with an emphasis in data science, which is perfect for testing out the waters.

We are grateful for the clients and students who form the lifeblood of the RBDC, as they are integral and crucial contributors to our programs. And we eagerly anticipate another exciting year ahead! In 2024, we hope to offer more projects across a wide span of industries. Our projects will continue to grow in both capability and value as we expand to additional fields of study and universities. We welcome new clients and are more than happy to discuss project potential for the future.





RBDC Students in Washington D.C.

On October 31st, Research and Business Development Center (RBDC) interns, Maxwell Erickson and Kelly Peterson, traveled to Washington D.C. to present with Tom Sanders at the CMAA2023 hosted by the Construction Management Association of America.



The primary purpose of the research presented was to determine the impact of the COVID pandemic on the commercial and residential construction industry. The study examined the impact on the supply chain, labor market and rates, material costs and other factors that impact the overall cost of commercial construction. The findings of the team provided valuable information for government policy and business strategy makers on how to deal with the current, post-pandemic environment.

Tom Sanders with MOCA Systems, Inc attended the conference with Maxwell and Kelly to present the research completed by a separate team of RBDC students during the spring. MOCA Systems, Inc provides innovative services and technologies for owners, designers, and contractors to plan, monitor, and deliver projects efficiently from start to finish.

Maxwell recently graduated from BYU-Idaho as an economics major and Kelly is a mathematical sciences applied statistics major with a minor in data science. Maxwell has been working with the RBDC for over a year and Kelly started this spring.

"This experience helped me translate a considerable amount of data-driven research and preparation directly into a presentation that helped senior figures within the industry make better decisions," explains Maxwell.



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

Scott Allred

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT

Scott is the RBDC's director of business research. He oversees all of our project internships and works closely with the students. Scott is truly invaluable to the RBDC and its mission.

Prior to the RBDC, Scott was an accountant in private industry helping large and small companies throughout Idaho. He has a passion for helping students apply their learning in real-world application, increase their business acumen, and helping them develop their career plans.

Scott obtained his Bachelors in Accounting from BYU-Idaho and then an MBA and MAcc from Idaho State University. He and his wife have five children. They also enjoy assisting others as a foster family. His hobbies include freelance web-consulting, entrepreneurship, continuous improvement, Legos, and spending time with his family.



(208) 356-5009
www.rbdcenter.org
info@rbdcenter.org
 35 N 1st E, Suite 3, Rexburg
 ID 83440