



AR-NETWORK FACULTY EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Advancing Faculty Expertise. Strengthening Community. Expanding Possibilities.

The AR-NETWORK Faculty Externship Program provides ATU faculty with the opportunity to engage with industry and community partners through short-term, immersive experiences. This initiative supports faculty growth while strengthening connections across the broader research and community ecosystem in Arkansas.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The AR-NETWORK Faculty Externship Program provides Arkansas Tech University faculty with the opportunity to engage with industry and community partners through short-term, immersive experiences. This program is a core objective of the AR-NETWORK Initiative and is fully funded to strengthen connections between the university and the communities we serve.

WHY THIS MATTERS

AR-NETWORK is focused on strengthening connections across academia, industry, and community to build a more collaborative and innovative Arkansas. Faculty externships create opportunities for shared learning, expand professional networks, and increase the impact of faculty expertise beyond the university.

FACULTY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Participate in a **4-week externship** during Summer 2026 (Term 1 or Term 2); approx **15 hrs** a week
- Engage in a relationship-building, observational experience (not as an employee)
- Learn about the partner's goals, challenges, and needs
- Help shape your externship experience
- Submit a brief report identifying insights and potential collaborations

INDUSTRY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide a meaningful opportunity for faculty to observe and learn about workplace operations, trends, and challenges
- Designate a point of contact for communication
- Share insights related to needs, trends and professional skills relevant to students

WHY PARTICIPATE

- Build relationships with faculty and ATU
- Develop better understanding of university programs
- Share workforce needs and industry trends
- Explore applied research and collaborative opportunities
- Help shape workforce readiness

NEXT STEPS

If interested in hosting a faculty extern, contact the ATU Center for Community Engagement & Academic Outreach (CCEAO).
jmiklesschluterman@atu.edu