

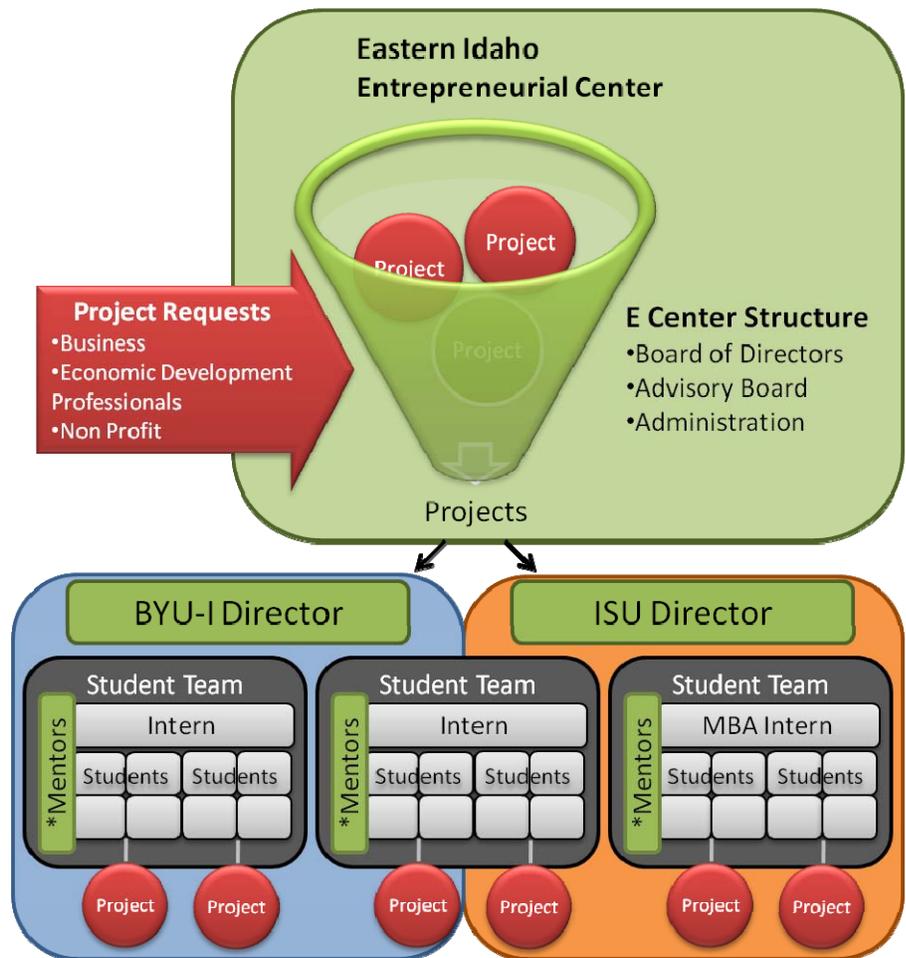
Do you have a product or service that you think is marketable but you don't know how it stacks up against competition? Are you wondering how and where to get funding? Do you own a small business and want to increase profit but you just don't have the time or resources to create a solid strategic plan? Do you belong to a larger company or non-profit organization that needs help with a project to expand your business? Or are you an economic development professional who needs help with a project in your community? If the answer to any of these or similar scenarios is "yes," the Eastern Idaho Entrepreneurial Center (E Center) can help.

What is the E Center

The E Center is a small nonprofit organization that coordinates university students and faculty to communities and businesses in 18 county regions in Eastern Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. The university students provide clients with short-term, low-cost, professional consulting services.

How it Works

The process works in this manner: A local business or economic development professional puts in a request for a project to the E Center. The E Center, consisting of a board and small number of administrators, assesses the needs of the project and assigns it to an appropriate team. Teams consist of a team manager, a supporting manager, and three to four students. Each team is overseen and mentored by faculty, E Center board members and staff, economic development professionals, and the business clients that the students work with. Teams may be strictly BYUI students, ISU students, or a mix of students from



* Mentors consist of : University Faculty, E Center board members and staff, Economic Development Professionals, and regional businesses.

each university—depending on the needs of the project.

Why the E Center

The idea of coordinating projects with businesses and universities is not a new idea; the E center is just working to help these coordination efforts become easier for both the community and universities to access. The E Center seeks to be a great resource for economic development professionals. The end result is an increase in economic growth and a better prepared workforce for the region.

E Center Success

The E Center, since 2006, has hired more

than 80 interns who have provided consultation services to more than 160 local companies. The E Center has also been instrumental in the retention, creation, and future creation of approximately 262 jobs as well as helping to find funds of over 12 million dollars for local businesses.

Contact

If you are interested in discussing how the E Center can assist with your business, contact Sam Peterson at petesam@isu.edu or Amy Stokes at a.stokes@idahoeconomiccenter.org.