

**Ximena Bustillo, Nicole Foy For Immediate Release: April 8, 2022**

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## **Current and former Idaho journalists launch Latino-focused internship program**

**BOISE** – Today, two former Idaho journalists, Nicole Foy and Ximena Bustillo, in partnership with the Idaho Press Club, Boise nonprofit Surel’s Place and local Latino leaders, launched [Voces Internship of Idaho](#), an equity-driven internship program to encourage Latino Idahoans to pursue a career in journalism and news by providing previously non-existent paid internships in pursuit of more balanced representation in newsrooms.

The internships will be funded by crowd-sourced donations and the Scripps Howard Foundation, which will cover half the salary of the first intern for Summer 2022. Applications for the summer internship open immediately, and all incoming juniors, seniors and recent graduates of Hispanic/Latino descent are urged to apply.

“This internship will train the next generation of Idaho Latino journalists and connect them to local newsrooms who desperately need their help,” said Nicole Foy, co-founder of Voces Internship of Idaho. “Paid internships are a necessary part of making journalism more accessible to Latinos, who are statistically less likely to afford unpaid opportunities.”

Voces Internship of Idaho has set a goal of raising \$20,000 to fund as many internships as possible, paying students a minimum of \$15 an hour. Interns will be selected by Voces Internship of Idaho’s advisory board members, a group of volunteer community members, and paired with an Idaho newsroom of the students’ goals.

“The Idaho Press Club is eager to connect students with newsrooms across the state, and we support Voces Internship of Idaho’s efforts to help our press corps reflect Idaho’s communities,” said Melissa Davlin, Idaho Press Club vice president.

Once students begin their internship, navigating the likelihood that they may be the only non-white person in the newsroom can often be difficult and isolating, especially when they report on issues close to Latinos and Spanish-speakers. That is why the Voces Internship of Idaho is asking for Latino/Hispanic people with professional backgrounds in news media to volunteer as mentors within the program.

“It’s important for the next generations to have this opportunity,” said Yanira Corvera, Radio Boise host and Voces Internship of Idaho advisory council member. “The door is so tightly closed – there are so many talented students out there who haven’t gotten the experience of what it’s like to work in radio, or other forms of communication. This program is going to show that there are opportunities in Idaho to have careers in journalism and beyond, especially for Latino students.”

The Voces Internship of Idaho is fiscally sponsored by Surel’s Place, a Boise nonprofit, and all donations are tax-deductible. To donate, go to [vocesinternship.com](http://vocesinternship.com)

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*Voces Internship of Idaho was formed in 2021 to increase Latino representation in Idaho by joining community members as mentors, donors, volunteers, and supporters to provide more equitable opportunities for Latino young adults to pursue a career in news journalism.*