

SUCCESS STORY



www.bioalberta.com



<https://amino.bio>



Justin Pahara (L, Advisor) and Julie Legault (R, Founder & CEO) of Amino Labs North

Amino Labs is a Lethbridge-based company creating safe, fun, engaging, and accessible biotechnology education. While biotechnology education companies do exist elsewhere, Amino Labs is set apart by their new generation of technology and experiences that bring biotechnology education to a *non-expert audience*. Amino Labs aspires to catalyze the next generation of bio-innovators that will help solve some of the world's biggest challenges and create exciting life sciences companies. They continue to make teaching biotechnology beginner-friendly, affordable, fun and student-led.

Three students secured internships at Amino Labs this summer. Julie Legault, Founder and CEO, tells us a little bit more: "Working with Devyn, Mika, and Wanlin has transformed this summer into a whirlwind of productivity! Each of them has demonstrated exceptional skills in their roles and has seamlessly integrated into our team." Mikaela and Wanlin brought invaluable expertise that Amino Labs previously lacked in-house. Their contributions have immensely enriched various projects, from new teaching

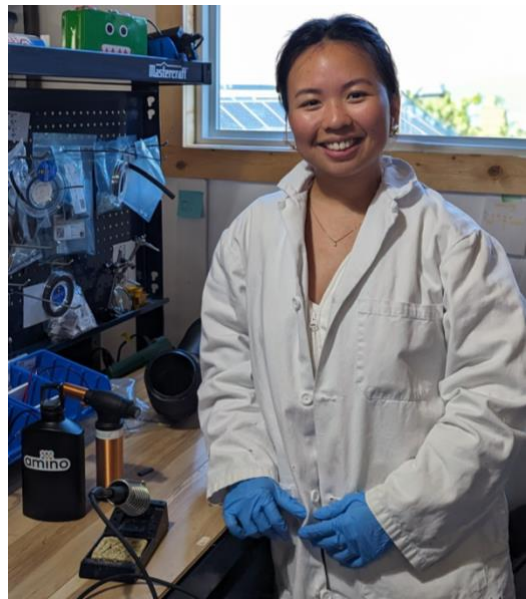
resources for the classroom to fun experiment simulators. Devyn played a pivotal role in helping set Amino Labs up for its next stage of growth, proving herself indispensable.

Julie says, “Beyond their professional talents, all three students are rising stars in STEM who consistently fostered a positive and inclusive work environment. Working alongside Devyn, Mika, and Wanlin has been an absolute pleasure.” Julie is also quick to note that WIL funding enabled these three hires, allowing Amino to support student researchers who are creating new and exciting learning experiences for students and support materials for educators.

From their own perspectives:

Mikaela Juco, Curriculum Writer Intern

“I am currently pursuing my education in Engineering. Transitioning to working in the field of engineering and biotechnology is overwhelming and Amino Labs offered the perfect opportunity to utilize my skills while learning more about the field – it helped me bridge that gap. During my time at Amino Labs, I’ve been working on transferring and organizing their existing resources into a more accessible wiki, as well as creating more resources for teachers to use in the classroom. It is exciting to see the company’s innovation coming to life. My work at Amino Labs inspires me to make biotech more accessible to individuals outside the field; once I graduate, I hope to move into the field of assistive devices and prosthetics, finding ways to make both more accessible to those who are in need.”



Wanlin Zheng, Web App Developer

“I applied for this position at Amino Labs to gain more work experience as a computing scientist before I graduate. I have been working on Tumult Hype simulation guides for biology learning kits and I have really enjoyed the problem-solving aspect of the work. There are often many solutions to a puzzle! It has been exciting to use my creativity to plan and implement the simulators.

My next step is to complete my final semester in school and the many project-based courses I am enrolled in. One takeaway from my work term is learning about the more business-focused roles in a start-up company. I enjoyed being involved in other proceedings as part of the start-up apart from just coding.”



Devyn Lacey, Science Education Sales Growth Associate

“I applied for this position because it appealed to me as a biology student with an interest in marketing and design and because Amino Labs company seeks to make genetic engineering and biotechnology more accessible to learners. This goal aligned well with my studies, as I am pursuing a degree concentration in Genetics and Evolution.

I have worked on a variety of projects, including researching potential market opportunities including a brand loyalty program and creating and designing educational guides. I also had the opportunity to participate in experiments that allowed me to fine-tune my laboratory skills.

The most exciting part of my internship has been helping develop new educational resources, including improving experiment kits and creating educator guides. I aspire to continue my studies by pursuing a graduate degree, and my internship at Amino Labs has better prepared me to do so.”

Amino Labs continues to innovate by creating new learning experiences for their customers. As Amino Labs has already laid its technology foundation, their student researchers are able to undertake challenging yet accessible projects that become an important part of their product offering. With a mission of bringing science education to the broader public, Amino Labs aims to overcome anti-science movements dividing western societies, and encourages us all to make biotechnology education a priority. Amino leads by example, starting in-house, by creating an environment that encourages student input, with everyone involved benefitting from new perspectives, enthusiasm, and creativity in the work culture.

If you or an educator you know is interested in learning more about Amino Labs' hands-on biotechnology kits, software, hardware and learning resources please visit their [website](#) or contact julie@amino.bio.

— **WIL VOUCHER** —

Alberta

bio
alberta
Association for Life Sciences Industry